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Fomca urges crackdown on power thieves

The Sun, Malaysia



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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Electricity theft can no longer be treated as a minor technical offence as it costs the government billions of ringgit annually and requires immediate, decisive action, according to the Federation of Malaysian Consumers Associations (Fomca).

Federation chief executive officer Dr T. Saravanan said the government, regulators and Tenaga Nasional Berhad must invest in stronger detection systems – including smart meters, real-time monitoring and data analytics – to identify suspicious consumption patterns.

“Enforcement efforts must be intensified, not only targeting the operators of illegal mining farms but also extending legal accountability to landlords, enablers and financiers who profit from or facilitate these activities.”

He stressed the need to urgently revise the legal framework on electricity theft to ensure penalties match the scale of the crime.

“Fines must be proportionate, and prison terms should reflect the seriousness of these offences.”

Saravanan also proposed that Malaysia consider creating regulated pathways for legal crypto-mining operations. – Bernama



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