



20 NOV, 2025

## Billions lost to Bitcoin farms

The Star, Malaysia



# Billions lost to Bitcoin farms

### 13,827 premises caught, RM4.5bil in electricity stolen since 2020

By **ARFA YUNUS**  
and **TEH ATHIRA YUSOF**  
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia suffered losses amounting to RM4.57bil from illegal electricity use linked to bitcoin mining activities over the past five years.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof (*pic*), who disclosed this to Parliament yesterday, said 13,827 premises were caught by Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) for stealing electricity to power cryptocurrency mining operations, mainly bitcoin farms, since 2020.

"This activity does not only pose safety risks to consumers, it also threatens the stability of our economy and presents a serious danger to the national energy supply system," he said in a parliamentary written reply.

Fadillah, who is Energy Transition and Water Transformation Minister, said the scale of losses required a robust response, with TNB developing an internal database containing complete records of owners and tenants of

premises suspected of electricity theft for crypto-mining purposes.

"This database plays a crucial role in identifying and monitoring suspicious premises and forms the basis for enforcement inspections," he added.

Fadillah said TNB, in cooperation with the ministry, Energy Commission (ST) and enforcement agencies, has intensified coordinated operations to combat the illicit activity.

This included joint raids with the police, National Anti-Financial Crime Centre, Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission, CyberSecurity Malaysia, Inland Revenue Board, local authorities and Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission.

"Through these collaborations, TNB is able to seize bitcoin mining machines and take effective action against the perpetrators," he said.

According to him, public awareness campaigns have also



been rolled out via press statements, TV segments and various mass communication channels to educate the public on the dangers of electricity theft and to encourage tip-offs through TNB's official reporting channels.

Fadillah said further measures included stakeholder engagements with MPs, ministries, ST and judicial officers, as well as technical monitoring under the Distribution Transformer Meter pilot project to detect abnormal usage patterns and potential theft.

Smart meters are also being installed to enable real-time monitoring and quick detection of meter tampering.

"The ministry, together with ST and TNB, remains committed to curbing meter interference and the illegal use of electricity, especially for bitcoin mining.

"These integrated enforcement efforts, awareness programmes and strategic engagements are

essential to minimising losses to the electricity supply industry and safeguarding the integrity of the nation's energy system," he said.

Separately, Deputy Energy Transition and Water Transformation Minister Akmal Nasrullah Mohd Nasir said they had established a multi-agency committee to tackle electricity theft linked to illegal bitcoin mining operations.

The committee include representatives from the Finance Ministry, Digital Ministry, Home Ministry, Bank Negara Malaysia and the police, and will examine policy, legal and cross-agency issues related to fraudulent power use.

"The committee will also facilitate matters that require intervention at the policy level to curb electricity theft.

"Instead of viewing this only from the enforcement angle, the committee will adopt a holistic approach," he said during the committee-stage winding-up of the 2026 Supply Bill for the ministry yesterday.