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Police, TNB bust Bitcoin mining operation

NILAI: In another triumph over illegal Bitcoin miners, police have stopped the culprits responsible for causing Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) to lose some RM2.1mil in electricity theft over the past year.

OCPD Supt Mohd Fazley Abdul Rahman said the bust – the biggest in Negri Sembilan so far – saw 581 machines worth RM1.6mil seized during joint raids with TNB.

Nine premises in Bandar Baru Nilai and Bandar Enstek were raided on Tuesday.

“We conducted the raids after carrying out surveillance with TNB for over two weeks,” he said.

Two men, including a Chinese national, were detained at one of the premises, he said.

Both are in their 30s and have admitted to being hired as technicians.

“They rented the upper floor to avoid detection because the mining activity generates noise,” Supt Mohd Fazley said, adding that police would call up the premises’ owners to wrap up their investigation.

Preliminary investigation showed that those behind the activity had tampered with the electricity meters.

The cases are being probed under Sections 397 and 427 of the Penal Code for power theft and causing mischief to TNB property.

TNB will also conduct its own probe under Section 37(3) of the Electricity Supply Act for meter tampering and power theft.

On March 18, the police, also teamed up with TNB, busted a syndicate stealing electricity to carry out Bitcoin mining, during raids on three shoplots in Seremban 3.

The raid resulted in the seizure of 264 machines worth RM528,000.