

MEDIA STATEMENT

6 OCTOBER 2022

ST Seizes Bitcoin Machines Worth Over RM2 Million in An OPS RENJAT Integrated Operation

PUTRAJAYA, 6 October – On 4 October 2022, the Energy Commission (“ST”) successfully seized 349 bitcoin machines including hard drives, wires, fans as well as other items in an OPS RENJAT integrated operation at five (5) vacant premises around Kajang with an estimated value exceeding RM2 million, causing losses to the utility with a value of more than RM1.3 million. Tampering was done by way of illegal connections bypassing the meter.

The integrated operation was led by ST in collaboration with the National Anti-Financial Crime Centre (NFCC), the Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM) with the support of Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) and the Fire and Rescue Department of Malaysia (JBPM).

The operation was implemented following complaints from consumers who often experienced supply disruptions as well as surveillance carried out by ST together with TNB in the affected areas.

The case is being investigated under Section 37(3), Electricity Supply Act, 1990 [Act 447], whereby if convicted, the company or individual involved will face the following penalties:

- A fine of up to RM1 million or imprisonment for a period not exceeding 5 years, or both, for the first offence; and
- A fine of up to RM5 million or imprisonment for a period not exceeding 10 years, or both, for the second and subsequent offences.

ABOUT THE ENERGY COMMISSION

The Energy Commission (Suruhanjaya Tenaga - ST) is a regulatory body responsible for regulating the energy sector, particularly the electricity and piped gas supply industries in Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah. The Energy Commission ensures that the provision of electricity and piped gas to consumers is secure, reliable, safe and reasonably priced.

Seized items such as bitcoin mining machines will be confiscated and disposed of. Through this integrated operation, other enforcement agencies may also take action under their respective legislations such as the Penal Code [Act 574] and the Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act, 2001 [Act 613].

ST would like to warn and remind the public not to tamper with utility-owned meters or electricity installations as well as to report to ST or TNB should they discover any meter irregularities or illegal connections being done. Premise owners are also reminded to practice vigilance in renting out premises to any parties and should be alert of the activities carried out by their tenants in said premises.

The act of electricity theft by irresponsible parties can cause electricity supply disruptions and pose a threat to the safety of the public. ST places a great emphasis on electrical safety whereby enforcement activities will continue to be implemented to ensure compliance with the regulations as well as to ensure that consumers are continuously protected from the dangers arising from electricity.

The public may report and issue a complaint of any incidents of electricity theft to TNB at 15454 for Peninsular Malaysia or ST at 03-8870 8800 or email us at eaduan@st.gov.my.

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For further information, please contact:

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