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## Customer charged in court for stealing electricity

<http://ct.moreover.com/ct?haid=a5fc38966e4e76e913896654525185a9419b21e5849bf&co=f000000014328s-3420426311>

KUCHING: A consumer from Permyjaya, Miri has been charged in the Session Court for dishonestly abstracting energy and preventing the electricity meter from duly recording the consumption of power at her premises. The charge, which is an offence under Section 33 of Electricity Ordinance (Cap 50), was initiated by Electrical Inspectorate Unit of the Public Utilities Ministry. The customer was allowed bail at RM4,500 with two local sureties after she pleaded not guilty to the charge. The case has been fixed for case management on this Feb 10. According to a press statement from Syarikat SESCO Bhd yesterday, the raid was conducted last September, where the consumer was served with a warrant of entry by the company's meter inspection team, witnessed by inspectors from Electrical Inspectorate Unit (EIU) and the police. "The house was suspected to having been stealing electricity for years. Our previous attempts to inspect the meter failed as the consumer deliberately ignore our meter inspection team by locking the house gate. We had earlier served letters and notices to inform the consumer that SESCO needed to access the premises for meter inspection, but these had come without response and cooperation from her part. "During inspection, we found that the meter had been tampered with by connecting illegal wires that prevented it from registering the full electricity consumption of the premises. "The house is equipped with seven air-conditioning units which ran daily but the monthly bill was only around RM100," SESCO said. The state electricity provider has been working closely with Public Utilities Ministry to bring power theft culprits to justice. SESCO also reminds the public that stealing electricity is a crime that carries a fine of up to RM100,000 or five years' imprisonment, or both. "We urge the public to inform us should they suspect any power theft going on by calling 082-443 535. All information will strictly be confidential,"

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