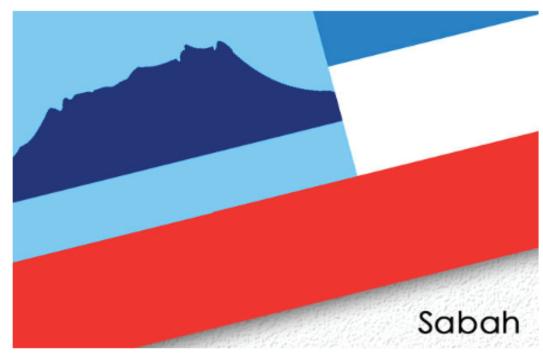
## 11 premises in Kota Kinabalu raided for power theft

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KOTA KINABALU, March 6 (Bernama) -- The Energy Commission (ST) and Sabah Electricity Sdn Bhd (SESB) have raided 11 premises suspected to have been stealing electricity in Kota Kinabalu.

ST deputy director of Planning and Enforcement Coordination Shafie Mohamed said metre tempering at the premises had caused monthly inconsistent consumption reading.

"Most of the power metres were punched and some of the terminals were intercepted so that the electricity usage will not be fully recorded," he told reporters when met after a raid in Inanam today.

It is an offence to tamper with power meters and offenders can be charged under Section 37 of the Electricity Supply Act 1990 which carries a maximum jail term of five years or a RM1,000,000 fine, upon conviction

Meanwhile, SESB acting managing director Abdul Nasser Abdul Wahid said the initial loss involving a frozen food premises was estimated at RM100,000.

Between January and February this year, 280 inspections have been carried out and 75 cases of power meter tampering were reported, involving a loss of RM243,000, he said.

-- BERNAMA