

31/05/2003

RM30m haul in illegal goods

Fay Angela D'cruz

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Police have seized illegal electronic gaming machines and pirated video compact discs worth RM30 million from syndicate distributors in raids carried out in the city since early this year.

More than 100 syndicate members were also arrested and the majority of them had been charged.

"Efforts to curb this problem are ongoing," city police chief Datuk Dell Akbar Khan said today.

Police have seized 1.697 million pirated VCDs valued at more than RM22 million since January.

Thirty people were arrested and 12 have been charged.

"We are confident we can curb the illegal distribution of pirated and pornographic VCDs by June 8."

Last weekend, Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Norian Mai issued a directive that police come down hard on those distributing pirated VCDs and promoting electronic gambling.

The crackdown was ordered following a directive from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"This is an ongoing operation, but now we have a June 8 deadline to meet," Dell Akbar said after officiating at an event to destroy video gaming machines at Jinjang police station today.

Also present were city Criminal Investigation Department chief Senior Assistant Commissioner Kamaruddin Mat Desa, his deputy Assistant Commissioner Syed Ismail, Sentul police chief ACP Ayob Mohamad and Dang Wangi Criminal Investigation Department chief Deputy Superintendent Wan Ahmad Wan Abas.

On illegal electronic gaming machines, police have seized 2,185 machines worth RM6.118 million.

Some 42 cases had been preferred in court and fines totalling RM114,000 were collected. This afternoon, 277 electronic gaming machines from the 43 cases were destroyed.

Meanwhile, the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry has also been carrying out raids to curb the distribution of pirated and pornographic VCDs. Yesterday, officers raided 29 outlets and seized 18,970 VCDs worth RM115,785.