

# Duo jailed 6 months for attempted fibre optic cable theft

**KUCHING:** Two men were each jailed for six months yesterday for attempting to steal fibre optic cable belonging to Telekom Malaysia (TM).

Magistrate Syarifah Fatimah Azura Wan Ali convicted Senawi Abang and Martin Stahlmann on their own guilty plea to a charge under Section 379 of the Penal Code read together with Section 34 and Section 511 of the same Code.

The Section provides a jail term for up to seven years or a fine, or both, upon conviction.

Senawi, Martin and another person still at large committed the offence at the roadside of Lorong 10, Taman Desa Wira in Batu Kawa here at around 12pm on Nov 4, 2024.

Based on the facts of the case, a TM worker and his colleagues arrived at the location to repair the fibre optic cable when they noticed Senawi and Martin inside a manhole attempting to steal the cable.

They managed to apprehend the duo but, while awaiting the arrival of auxiliary police personnel, were suddenly met by several men – one armed with a machete – who arrived in a car.

Fearing for their safety, the TM workers fled the scene and headed to a police station to file a report.

Acting on the report, police arrested Senawi and Martin the next day.

An investigation found that Martin had orchestrated the theft attempt, and had roped in Senawi and a third individual as his accomplices.

It was also revealed that at the time the two accused were apprehended by the TM team, Martin had contacted a friend to help them escape.

During an identification parade, the TM workers were able to positively identify Senawi and Martin as the perpetrators.

ASP Arman Ibrahim prosecuted the case, while both Senawi and Martin did not have legal representation.