

Duo fined RM5,000 for role in underground cable theft

KUCHING: The Magistrates' Court here yesterday fined two men RM5,000 each in default seven months' imprisonment for committing mischief by pulling out a cable from a manhole along Jalan Mendu.

Magistrate Leona Dominic Mojiliu convicted Bakeri Chundi, 44, and Mohd Suffian Abdullah, 29, on their own guilty pleas to a charge under Section 431A of the Penal Code read together with Section 34 of the same Code.

The Section provides for a maximum two years' jail or a fine, or both, upon conviction.

According to the facts of the case, police observed a van being used to pull a cable from a manhole on Jalan Mendu at about 2.50pm on March 7 this year, with two men on a motorcycle—later identified as the accused—also involved.

Police subsequently trailed the suspects and ordered those in

the van to exit the vehicle, while the two accused managed to escape.

An inspection of the van led to the discovery and seizure of a cable, hacksaw, hammer, crowbar and screwdriver.

The suspects in the van—a 22-year-old man identified as Syed Arsyad Wan Hazini and a 19-year-old girl—were placed under arrest on suspicion of cable theft.

Further investigations later led to the arrests of Bakeri and Mohd Suffian on March 12.

Syed Arsyad and the 19-year-old girl chose to claim trial, with the court allowing them to be released on undeposited bail of RM1,000 with one local surety each.

Pre-trial case management was fixed for May 19, 2026.

Deputy public prosecutor Muhammad Aidil Akmal Sharidan appeared for the prosecution, while all four accused were unrepresented.