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More than 1,000 held in blitz on gamblers

KUALA LUMPUR: Police arrested more than 1,000 people for gambling during the Chinese New Year celebrations last month. They were picked up in raids between Jan 14 and Feb 26.

"During the operations, police seized more than 5,000 computers which had been altered for gaming purposes and other paraphernalia. The majority of those nabbed were aged between 25 and 55," said Federal Criminal Investigation principal assistant director SAC II Datuk Hasnan Hassan.

The raids were conducted all over the country by anti-gaming officers from Bukit Aman and policemen at state and district levels.

"A total of 1,486 raids were conducted at premises which had been identified as illegal gaming outlets where customers gambled using computers. Police arrested 827 people and seized 5,911 computers," he said, adding that cash was also seized.

Police also received tip-offs on illegal lottery operations and carried out 214 raids where a total of 114 people were detained.

Illegal number forecast operators were also targeted with 41 arrests from 59 raids.

Police raided more than 150 mini casinos and arrested 247 people, seizing a substantial amount of money.

More than 130 people were also arrested for playing cards.

Selangor police made 306 arrests from 349 raids with 2,955 computers seized. Perak police had 141 arrests from 303 raids and seizing 381 computers while police in Kuala Lumpur made 214 arrests from 269 raids and seized 745 computers.



SAC II Datuk Hasnan Hassan says the raids are an all-out war on gambling syndicates

"This is an all-out war against gambling syndicates operating in Malaysia and the police raids will continue," Hasnan said.

"Syndicate members will not only be prosecuted but their assets will also be confiscated under the Anti-Money Laundering Act 2001."

It is understood that preventive measures may also be used against members of gambling syndicates under the Emergency Ordinance 1969.

Hasnan appealed to the public to call the police at 03-2262 6555 or Rakan Cop at 03-2115 9999 if they have information on illegal gambling outlets in their neighbourhoods.