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KTMB loses railway stop

By IAN MCINTYRE

PASIR MAS: Thieves have carted off an entire railway stop, following a spate of thefts of metal equipment belonging to Keretapi Tanah Melayu Bhd (KTMB).

Confirming this, KTMB east coast manager Ibrahim Sulaiman said that two weeks ago thieves, keen on extracting the steel components, removed a store and stop sign that indicated the stopping point for trains in Pekan Tok Uban.

He said the company was deeply concerned over the growing theft of its equipment. It had lodged a police report since.

"Periodically, we detect thefts of our steel tracks, bolts, nuts and equipment from our storerooms," he added.

Ibrahim said people now had no respect for KTMB equipment, unlike years ago when the train service was a major public transportation provider.

As most of the KTMB equipment is located in the open, thieves have a field day despite daily patrols.

He hoped the thefts would not result in any misalignment of the tracks, which may lead to mishaps.

He estimated the losses since the start of the year at thousands of ringgit and appealed to villagers to keep a lookout for the thieves.

Ibrahim also lamented the high number of squatters living near rail tracks.

"Despite countless reminders to move, for their own safety, some of the squatters remain stubborn.

"Some even attempted to sabotage KTMB services when they were ordered to move," he said, adding that they

would trespass, walk along tracks and even allow their cattle to roam inside restricted zones.

Ibrahim said a comprehensive plan must be in place, to tackle these problems.

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