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Never mind the danger, trio steal cables to buy drugs

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KUALA TERENGANU: Three men risked their lives to steal power and telecommunications cables just to feed their drug addiction.

Kuala Terengganu deputy OCPD Supt Suffian Sulaiman said the three men aged 22 to 39, also known as the "Awang Cenneh" gang, were arrested on Monday for the crime that could cost the utility companies millions in repair works.

"They would carry out their crime at night and strip the copper from the cables to be sold as scrap metal," he said, estimating that a kilogramme of copper could fetch about RM17.

The first man, a 22-year-old assis-

tant lorry driver, was arrested at around 4pm at a house in Gong Badak. There, police found a gunny sack containing strips of cut cable with the copper already removed in the man's living room.

Investigations later led police to another house in Kampung Banggol Air Lilih where they arrested the 34-year-old house painter and the 39-year-old labourer.

All the men were also found positive for methamphetamines.

"We believe the group has been operating since last year," Supt Suffian said.

Police received 40 reports of cable thefts last year and about 11 more in January.

"We hope that with this arrest, we can solve many of these cases."



Lucrative looting: Supt Suffian (right) examining the stolen cables as Kuala Terengganu CID operation officer Asst Supt Leong Wai Kong (centre) and Gong Badak police station chief Inspector Mohd Adzlan Zulkifli look on.