

Thugs working for video pirates

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Local video pirate syndicates are employing gangsters, drug traffickers and pimps to expand their business and thwart enforcement officers.

Golden Star Video managing director Sonny Yap said today some syndicates, whose owners drive luxury cars and earn more than \$5,000 a day, were employing thugs to threaten enforcement teams and intimidate authorised video dealers.

"Many of our officers and authorised dealers have been threatened, beaten up or slashed with parangs by these thugs," he told a Press conference here.

He claimed the syndicates resorted to strong-arm tactics following increased pressure from the authorities and enforcement divisions of copyright owners.

Mr Yap, who has been fighting the pirate video business since the early '80s, said Golden Star (the sole licensee of TVB International of Hong Kong) would not bow to such pressures.

He said the company noted that these syndicates had been getting away with their illegal activities by paying fines.

To overcome this, the company had resorted to civil action in addition to raids by Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry enforcement teams.

This move had been successful and resulted in several injunctions in the form of anton pillar and discovery orders against the syndicates.

(An anton pillar is a court order which empowers a lawyer to go into the premises of a defendant in search of evidence.)

The latest case involved the proprietor of Pusat Video Happy of Lucky Gardens, Bangsar, who has been committed to prison for contempt of court.



MR YAP
... dealers threatened

Relating the case, Mr Yap said investigations by its lawyers discovered that the video centre, which was not a registered business, had been dealing actively in pirated tapes.

He said the company's lawyers then applied for an injunction and a discovery order last month.

Armed with the injunction, they raided the video centre and seized 755 pirated tapes last month. A further 635 tapes were found in the premises within a period of less than a week.

The lawyers then made an application to commit the owner to prison for contempt of court.

In another case, the proprietor of Pusat Video Elektronik New Time in Seri Kembangan was fined \$10,000 by the High Court after he had repeatedly failed to comply with earlier injunctions, said Mr Yap.

An anton pillar order has also been enforced on Pusat Video KL of Taman Cheras Indah, forcing the proprietor to close shop.

The company has advised the public not to deal with any video outlet served with an injunction as they are also liable to be charged with contempt of court.

We acted for Golden Star Sdn Bhd.

Mr. Gomez made the application to commit Loh Sang and Yap Chooi Heng.

Both were committed to Civil Prison

Malay Mail 23/5/91

JAIL WILL END VIDEO PIRACY

THE best way to deter video tape piracy is to impose longer jail terms and heavier fines, a video centre manager postulated.

In the absence of deterrent sentences, the pirates are becoming bolder, Golden Star Video Sdn Bhd managing director Sonny Yap said.

He said records show that the courts hardly meted out jail sentences but normally fined the culprits between \$1,000 and \$10,000, a meagre sum compared to the mil-

lions of ringgit they are reaping through their illegal activities.

"The heaviest fine imposed on video cassette pirates to date is \$50,000 when the then Trade and Industry Ministry enforcement officers raided an outlet in Petaling Jaya in 1984," he said.

He claimed that the first video pirate to be sent to prison was a woman who was arrested and charged for possession of 1,390 copies of infringed video cassettes early this month.

The woman is serving a jail sentence at Kajang prison for contempt of court as she declined to reveal the identity of the owner of the pirated tapes.

One of the reasons why video piracy in the country is flourishing is because the mastermind always remains anonymous, Mr Yap said.

"The real culprits, who are causing big losses to the industry, engage fall guys who are willing to come forward claiming the seized cassettes belonged to them," he said.

"These people are willing to do this because they are paid well."



Mr Yap: Reaping millions

Video centre boss fined \$10,000 for defying order

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — The High Court fined the managing director of a video centre \$10,000, in default six months' jail, today for not complying with a court order.

Mr Loh Sang, managing director of Pusat Video and Electronic New Time, paid the fine.

Television Broadcast Ltd and Golden Star Video Sdn Bhd had applied to Mr Justice Datuk Dr Zakaria Yatim to commit Mr

Loh to prison for not complying with the Sept 9, 1990, High Court order.

The court had allowed the applicants to enter the video centre to check on whether there had been any copyright violation.

The applicants' employees and lawyer had found 106 videotapes which infringed their copyright at the video centre on Sept 27 last year.

Mr Loh had refused to let them seize the tapes.