

Unpaid workers burn eatery

Four restaurant employees suspected of theft and arson

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KAJANG: Four workers allegedly set a restaurant ablaze because the owner owed them salaries.

OCPD Asst Comm Ab Rashid Ab Wahab said the employer received a call from a friend alerting him of the fire before rushing to the outlet in Jalan Reko, here, on Tuesday morning.

"He was told by witnesses there that four men, believed to be his workers, had loaded tables, chairs and kitchen ware onto a lorry before the restaurant went up in flames,"

he said.

Arson is suspected as police discovered a rolled-up paper, believed to be used to start the fire.

ACP Ab Rashid said the case was being investigated under Section 435 of the Penal Code for causing mischief with fire with intent to cause damage.

Meanwhile, 42 Nepalese workers were arrested following a riot by more than 800 workers at an electronics manufacturing factory in the Kelapa Sawit industrial area in Kulaijaya.

Kulaijaya deputy OCPD Deputy Supt Mohad Idris Samsuri said the workers were picked up after they

set fire to the JCY HDD Technology Sdn Bhd's building along Jalan Gangsa around 8pm on Tuesday.

He said some 1,000 foreign workers had assembled at the area in the morning. While some dispersed when police arrived, the others remained to take part in the riot until evening.

The riot came in the wake of an incident at another JCY branch at the Tebrau IV industrial area near Johor Baru last Thursday.

There, some 1,500 workers, apparently unhappy over the company's handling of a worker's welfare, threw pieces of metal and other items from their four-storey hostel,

besides overturning a parked van.

"Some 60% of those who gathered there were Nepalese nationals and 42 were arrested because they refused to disperse. Instead, they turned violent," said DSP Mohd Idris on the Kulaijaya riot.

Plant general manager, who wanted to be known as Liaw, confirmed that the plant was not operating yesterday due to Tuesday's incident.

A statement released by JCY International Bhd yesterday said JCY HDD Technology, its wholly owned subsidiary, would be temporarily shut.

It added that the company was taking measures to reach an amicable settlement with the workers.