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KUALA LUMPUR: City police have busted a three-month-old ketum lab that was operating in a house in Wangsa Maju on New Year's Day.

City police chief Commissioner Datuk Mazlan Lazim said the syndicate codenamed "Ayah Nun" was a ketum juice wholesaler that was involved in processing ketum leaves and drinks.

"Police raided the house at about 3.45pm and recovered both ketum leaves and drinks.

"During the raid, we arrested four suspects aged between 20 and 60. Among those arrested were the mastermind of the lab. A total of 116kg of unprocessed ketum leaves and 217 packets of ketum juice worth RM6,376 were seized in the house," he told reporters at the KL police headquarters yesterday.

Preliminary investigations revealed the syndicate was in the midst of producing ketum juice meant for local consumption.

Mazlan said the syndicate obtained the fresh leaves from a source in Kedah which were transported via express buses.

He advised bus operators not to turn into drug mules and get involved with ketum trafficking activities.

Mazlan added the mastermind,



Mazlan (second from right) pointing to the seized items yesterday.

a 56-year-old man from Kedah, had six criminal records.

"He was assisted by three cooks and the syndicate had been supplying the drinks to smaller traders in the city and raked in

almost RM20,000 a month.

"Each trip from the North would yield more than 200 packets of the drinks, which are then sold for RM10 each to buyers."

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