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750kg ketum leaves seized



Kedah Malaysian Border Security Agency commander Abdul Latiff Abd Rahman (left) showing the packed ketum leaves seized from a rubber estate at Kampung Kubang Kesom in Sik. PIC BY ZULIATY ZULKIFLI

GROWN IN RUBBER ESTATE

750kg of ketum leaves seized

BUKIT KAYU HITAM: Ketum leaf suppliers in Sik district have taken to growing the plant in rubber estates to meet the growing demand in Thailand.

This was discovered by Malaysian Border Security Agency (Aksem) officers when they raided a shack in a rubber estate in Kampung Kubang Kesom on Sunday night. They seized 750kg of ketum leaves, packed in bags, and another 10kg from a Nissan Vanette, parked next to the shack.

The value of the leaves was estimated at RM38,000.

State Aksem commander Abdul Latiff Abd Rahman said his men also discovered

ketum plants in the 10.15pm raid.

He said no arrest was made as no one was in the vicinity.

"We believe the ketum leaves were to be picked up, by a third party. The modus operandi is for the syndicate to pick up the leaves at night," he said at the state Aksem headquarters.

Latif said investigations showed the leaves would be sent to the east coast before being taken to Thailand.

He said the price of ketum leaves in Thailand was three times higher.

"In Thailand, they can get RM100 per kg. Here, it is only RM30 per kg."