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## Singaporean amputee behind drug processing lab

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**ALOR SETAR:** A Singaporean amputee was among the brains detained by Kedah police for turning a house into a drug processing lab in Taman Gunung here.

The 57-year-old chemist, whose right leg was amputated from the knee down, along with the 37-year-old mastermind, saw their luck run out after police seized an assortment of drugs worth RM784,590 from the house.

Bukit Aman Special Tactical Intelligence Narcotics Group (STING) and state Narcotics Criminal Investigation Department first raided their house at 2.45am on Tuesday.

They seized almost 10kg of heroin, 5.94kg of syabu, 1.48kg of heroin-based substance, 10.8kg of ephedrine and 19,400 pills (pill kuda) from one of the rooms.

The police then followed up with raids at four locations here and Kuala Kedah, leading to the arrest of four local men and two women from China and Laos, all aged between 27 and 47.

Kedah police chief Comm Datuk Zainal Abidin Kasim told the media yesterday that they also seized other items worth RM672,880, including cash, jewellery, luxury cars and a high-powered bike.

"The Singaporean is the 'cook' and key person in this case.

"The house was rented three months ago and turned into a drug processing lab without the

owner's knowledge.

"The drugs were nicely packed and ready for sale in the local market," he said.

Comm Zainal Abidin said the suspects will be remanded until June 11 to facilitate investigation.

Meanwhile, in Bukit Kayu Hitam, the Kedah Customs Department seized RM300,000 from two men who "smuggled" the undeclared cash into the country in a van via the Thai-Malaysian border.

The officers first discovered RM100,000 concealed under the dashboard of the vehicle during an inspection.

The driver, a 43-year-old Thai national, and a local man, 63, were subsequently detained at 10.45am on May 5.

But at 3.30pm the same day, a Thai national, 49, tried to break into the van which had been impounded.

State Customs director Datuk Johari Alifiah said the incident led to the discovery of a further RM200,000 in the van.

"The three suspects were charged at the Jitra magistrate's court on May 15," he said.

In an unrelated development, Johari said officers from the customs officials raided an unoccupied house in Sungai Puyu, Butterworth, where they found three lorries and a van loaded with various brands of cigarettes, on May 24.

"The street value of the contraband cigarettes is about RM693,000, with unpaid duties amounting to more than RM2.95mil," he said.



**Big haul:** Comm Zainal Abidin (front row, second from right) accompanied by (from left) Deputy Police Chief R. Bala Subramaniam, State Police Narcotics Criminal Investigation Department Chief Superintendent of Police Helmi Aris and Deputy Director of Bukit Aman police's STING ACP Ravindar Singh showing media the seized drugs and the drug processing items at the press conference in Jalan Stadium, Alor Setar.