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By JO TIMBUONG
jo.timbuong@thestar.com.my

SHAH ALAM: A husband-and-wife team thought they could supplement their online perfume business by learning another skill from the web – ganja farming.

Eager to create their own supply, the couple even ordered cannabis plant seeds from overseas via the Internet.

However, their enterprise was busted before it could take off after police stormed into their condominium unit and carted away 38 potted ganja plants.

Their downfall started when police stopped the couple in their car in Seri Kembangan at 5pm on Monday.

"Police did a body search of the man and found a clear plastic packet containing 8.99g of compressed ganja leaves on him," said Selangor deputy police chief Deputy Comm Datuk Ab Rashid Ab Wahab.

After questioning the couple, police were led to a high-end condominium unit in Puchong and it became apparent that the couple was trying to farm their own ganja.

Twenty-nine pots of the illegal plant were found on the balcony while nine more seedlings were found in a temperature-controlled room.

The couple also used a special lamp to simulate sunlight as well as fertiliser to aid the plants' growth, DCP Ab Rashid said.

It is believed that the couple, who sell perfume online, had just started cultivating their own plants.

"They probably have been active for about six months and the plants were not mature enough to be processed," DCP Ab Rashid said.

Police could not be certain how much ganja each plant could yield, nor could they confirm whether or not the couple planned to use their legitimate online business as a front for the illegal one.

During the raid, police also arrested a man in his early 20s, believed to be a relative, and seized two packets of compressed ganja leaves weighing about 1.5kg worth RM3,600.

It is believed the drugs were meant for the local market.

All the suspects did not have prior records and have been remanded until June 19.

The case is being investigated under Section 39B of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952, which carries a mandatory death sentence, and Section 6B of the same Act, which carries a life sentence.

Their arrests came three weeks after a retired army officer calling himself "Dr Ganja" was nabbed by



Illegal farm: DCP Ab Rashid pointing at the potted cannabis plants seized during a raid at the condominium unit in Puchong. Looking on is Selangor Narcotics Chief Asst Comm Amarjit Singh.

police in Klang after using social media and mobile messaging apps to push his so-called ganja-based remedies.

In a separate case, police stopped an unemployed man in Setapak on June 10 and found 990g of ganja in his possession, estimated to be worth RM2,400.

"The suspect tried to resist arrest and became aggressive but we

managed to subdue him," DCP Ab Rashid said, adding that the man had a drug-related criminal record.

The suspect then led police to a house in Batu Caves where they arrested a woman and seized about 23kg of compressed ganja leaves worth about RM58,000.

The drugs were also meant for the local market.

The suspects, aged between 30

and 40 years old, have been remanded until June 17.

The case is also being investigated under Section 39B of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952.

DCP Ab Rashid said these were among six successful drug raids in the state between June 10 and 13, during which police seized more than 33kg of ganja with an estimated value of RM81,000.