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Cops bust drug ring that used luxury condos

BY FARIK ZOLKEPLI



Drug haul: Comm Mohd Mokhtar (left) showing the drugs seized during the press conference in Bukit Aman.

KUALA LUMPUR: Police have busted an international drug ring that was operating from luxury condominiums in Selangor.

Believed to be headed by a Singaporean, the syndicate imported drugs and repacked them in tea boxes before smuggling them to Indonesia.

The ring, which was using the high-end condos to avoid detection, was dealing in syabu (amphetamines).

Police uncovered the operation and raided several premises in Damansara Perdana in Selangor, Bangsar in Kuala Lumpur, and Kempas in Johor Baru on May 6.

The ring was operating from two condos in Damansara Perdana while the other premises were where they stored the drugs.

The raiding teams comprised Narcotics Criminal Investigation Department (NCID) and Special Tactical Intelligence Narcotics Group (STING) personnel.

Bukit Aman NCID director Comm Datuk Seri Mohd Mokhtar Mohd Shariff said police seized 64.17kg of syabu, 61.53kg of ketamine, 23,985 ecstasy pills and 68 Erimin 5 tablets, amounting to RM8.5mil.

“We arrested six syndicate members, including two Singaporean men.

“We believe one of them, a 58-year-old Singaporean, is the brains of the syndicate,” he told a press conference at Bukit Aman yesterday.

He added that one Singaporean was a wanted man in his home country.

Police also seized RM1.5mil worth of assets, comprising seven vehicles, 11 branded watches and an amount of cash.

Comm Mohd Mokhtar credited the success to the cooperation between Bukit Aman and its Singapore and Indonesia counterparts.

“The sharing of intelligence is vital to bringing down international drug rings,” he added.

On Thailand detaining two Malaysian men in an unrelated drug case recently, including a certain “Mr T”, Comm Mohd Mokhtar said police would interview them after the Thais have completed their investigation.

He said that both suspects were neither drug kingpins nor drug lords as portrayed in the media. “They are mere syndicate members. Don’t glorify them,” he said.

On a notorious drug lord in Thailand who has reportedly undergone plastic surgery to escape the authorities as he decides between Malaysia or Cambodia for his refuge, Comm Mohd Mokhtar said NCID was not bothered.

“He can change his face a thousand times, it won’t make a difference. We will still catch him if he enters Malaysia,” he said.

Between Jan 1 and May 4, NCID and STING seized drugs amounting to nearly RM85mil and arrested 66,243 suspects, including 8,957 suspected traffickers.

Syabu is the most popular drug being seized (46%), followed by heroin (30%).

Read more at <http://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2017/05/12/cops-bust-drug-ring-that-used-luxury-condos/#KG3w7mIUWPFIPpDf.99>

