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**JOHOR BARU:** Police have crippled a drug syndicate with the arrest of 15 suspects in a special operation on Dec 2 in Johor and Kuala Lumpur.

Police also seized RM1.7 million worth of syabu, vehicles and cash valued at RM730,000.

"The syndicate, which had been newly set up, aimed to traffick syabu to local and Singapore markets," federal police Narcotics Criminal Investigations Department (NCID) director Commissioner Datuk Seri Mohd Mokhtar Mohd Sharif said in a press conference at Johor police headquarters here yesterday.

He said a team comprising the Special Tactics and Intelligence Narcotics Group (STING) and Johor NCID carried out the operation between 3am and noon on Dec 2 when they arrested a

suspect in Kulai.

The suspect led police to a nearby apartment where police found 27kg of heroin in his car.

The team also carried out nine follow-up raids in Johor Baru, Segamat and Kuala Lumpur and arrested 15 suspects, including a woman, aged between 18 and 40.

Three of the suspects tested positive for drugs.

He said another 310g of syabu was also seized in the raids.

"I must thank the Singapore Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) which gave valuable information on this syndicate," Mohd Mokhtar said, adding that Malaysian police will continue cooperating with their counterparts in Singapore and other countries to combat the drug menace.

CNB director Ng Ser Song was also present at the press conference.



Mohd Mokhtar (third from right) and Johor police chief Datuk Wan Ahmad Najmuddin Mohd (fourth from right) with the drugs seized in the raids.