

Drug labs move to remote sites

Posted on 21 October 2013 - 10:04pm

Last updated on 21 October 2013 - 10:43pm

Afiq Niza

newsdesk@thesundaily.com

KUALA LUMPUR (Oct 21, 2013): Narcotics syndicates running drug laboratories here are moving their activities from residential areas to remotely located industrial estates to evade detection by the authorities.

This was discovered when federal police seized about RM18 million worth of syabu at a makeshift drug laboratory in Kampung Padang Jawa, Klang on Friday which led to the arrest of four members of a syndicate, including two Iranians.

Bukit Aman Narcotics CID director Datuk Noor Rashid Ibrahim said 89.32kg of liquefied methamphetamine and other chemicals and equipment used for drug processing were found in the laboratory inside a warehouse following a public tip-off.

He said police raided the warehouse at 8.30pm last Friday, during which the Iranians and a Malaysian mechanic were arrested. The fourth suspect was nabbed the following day at 12.10am after a high-speed chase on Lingkar Syed Putra during which detectives fired two shots at the suspect's car tyre to get him to stop.

"This is the first time drug syndicates were caught setting up a laboratory in an isolated area. In the past, they used luxury condominiums," Noor Rashid said.

"Our investigations show the Iranians, aged 23 and 34, were involved in processing the drugs while the two local men set up the laboratory and distributed the drugs to pushers.

"We are also looking for the owner of the warehouse who leased out the building to the syndicate."

He said police believed the drugs were meant for distribution within the country and to neighbouring countries.

Noor Rashid said all suspects were remanded for investigation under section 39 (B) of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952, which carries a mandatory death sentence if found guilty.