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KUALA LUMPUR — A heavily armed drug syndicate was crippled by police who raided a would-be meth lab operating at an apartment in Bukit Jalil on Friday.

Besides attempting to produce methamphetamine, the syndicate kept four semi-automatic pistols and a revolver, along with 268 rounds of ammunition of various calibres.

Police believe the guns were mainly kept for protection, but did not rule out the possibility they were meant to be sold locally or loaned for a fee.

Several pistol magazines loaded with 188 rounds of .9mm calibre bullets, and 80 rounds of .45mm calibre bullets were

seized at the apartment where a 49-year-old was arrested.

City police chief Commissioner Datuk Amar Singh said the weapons would be sent for ballistics tests, and the suspects questioned on where the guns were obtained from.

“The guns will be put through tests to determine if they were used in any past shooting cases in the country,” he said.

Amar said police seized RM90,000 worth of materials used to produce meth, including 1.3kg of meth oil, a substance one stage of production away from being ready for consumption.

“The oil, once mixed with another bleaching agent, would be ready for consumption. We believe they were aiming at local users,” he said.

Other items seized were glass and plastic beakers, two canisters containing

hydrochloric acid and ethanol absolute, and a gunny sack containing 13kg of powder believed to be used as the bleaching agent.

Another damning piece of evidence showing the lab had just started operating were the RM1, RM5, and RM10 notes among the RM65,837 seized.

“The large number of small notes among the seized cash showed they had just started to distribute the drugs in small amounts,” he said.

Amar revealed the bust of the lab was due to cooperation between the public and police.

“A tip-off eventually led police to the bust. This is the cooperation police are looking for,” he said.

Amar urged the public to report to police should they notice suspicious behaviour and characters in their neighbourhood.



Amar Singh and his officers show the seizure at the police headquarters yesterday. — Picture by China Press