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Key figures still at large

HUGE PENANG DRUG HAUL

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Cops arrest 'watchman', believe a large syndicate behind drug lab

MOHAMED BASYIR
GEORGE TOWN
news@nst.com.my

POLICE believe key figures linked to a drug processing lab at a flat in Taman Paya Terubong here, which was busted on Friday, are still at large.

A source told the *New Straits Times* that the 50-year-old man, who was arrested during a police raid, was the lab's "watchman".

"Checks revealed that he was never caught for drug-related offences. He may not be the main suspect as he could be the one

who took care of the lab," said the source.

In the 10.30am raid, police seized drugs worth RM6.8 million, their biggest seizure since last year.

A total of 13.92kg of heroin, 20kg of syabu, 35.3kg of ecstasy powder, 33 litres of meth oil, 20kg of caffeine powder and drug processing equipment were seized.

"We will investigate further to nab the other suspects.

"We believe they had been active in producing and trafficking drugs for the past one month," said state police chief Commissioner Datuk Chuah Ghee Lye at the state police headquarters in Jalan Penang here yesterday.

Considering the large amount of drugs seized, Chuah said there might be a large syndicate behind it.

"The man arrested is unemployed, so how can he afford to produce drugs? There must be



Penang police chief Commissioner Datuk Chuah Ghee Lye showing drugs and drug processing equipment seized from the drug lab at the state police headquarters in George Town yesterday. PIC BY DANIAL SAAD

others involved. He has a criminal record for theft, and tested positive for drugs."

Chuah said police believed the drugs were meant for the local market, adding that they were investigating the extent of the sus-

pect's involvement with the syndicate.

The suspect has been remanded until May 15 for investigations under Section 39B of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952 for trafficking.