

Major drug smuggling ring busted

High-living Nigerian, girlfriend, nabbed, RM7.8mil worth of drugs seized

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by G. Prakash [1]

Location:

KUALA LUMPUR



BUSTED: Bukit Aman narcotics director Datuk Noor Rashid Ibrahim (centre) displaying the seized drugs

A 32-YEAR-OLD Nigerian, believed to be the mastermind of a drug smuggling ring and the owner of a luxury hotel in his country, was detained, last Saturday.

Enjoying a lavish lifestyle from ill-gotten earnings, the suspect was detained with his girlfriend from a bungalow in Lukut, Negeri Sembilan, where police also seized two luxury cars — a BMW and Toyota Camry.

Bukit Aman Narcotics Division director Datuk Noor Rashid said the man was believed to be the main supplier of syabu and heroin and that he used women as 'mules', carrying the drugs in bags with special compartments.

Noor Rashid said police were also working with Interpol to help verify the suspect's wealth in Nigeria.

Police tracked down the suspect after an accomplice was detained during a drug raid at an apartment in Sri Hartamas, last Friday, when police seized 26.8kg of syabu and 16.9kg of heroin worth RM7.8 million.

"The drug mules enter our country through the KL International Airport and transport drugs to other countries from here."

The case is being investigated under the Dangerous Drugs (Forfeiture of Property) Act 1988. Police are still looking into the role the mastermind's girlfriend played.

In a separate incident, an Iranian couple and two sisters were detained for trying to smuggle drugs into the country.

The married couple, aged 18 and 28, were carrying 2.4kg of syabu while the sisters, 54 and 57, had 4.2kg of syabu. The four were arrested after they had arrived at KLIA from Cairo and Dubai.

The suspects were found with the syabu, worth RM1.3 million, stashed in special compartments in their bags.

Other recent drug-related incidents include the arrest of a Nigerian woman and a woman from Zambia on Aug 27, a Nigerian and Iranian man at KLIA and Damansara Perdana on Aug 28. Police seized a total 5.6 kg of syabu worth RM1.1 million from these arrests.