

Man caught with RM3m syabu

BIGGEST SEIZURE: Addict under police supervision in Keningau nabbed at airport



Sabah Police Commissioner Datuk Hamza Taib (centre) examining the drugs, packed and labelled as refined Chinese tea, which were seized from the suspect on Monday night. Pic by Edmund Samunting

A DRUG addict, who was not supposed to leave his hometown of Keningau, flew to Kuala Lumpur and returned home with 11kg of drugs, which turned out to be the biggest drug seizure in Sabah this year.

The 31-year-old plumber was also tested positive for syabu after he was detained outside Terminal 2 of the Kota Kinabalu International Airport on Monday night.

The crystal-like substance, believed to be syabu, is worth more than RM3 million.

A team from the state police narcotics division had caught the man, who was not allowed to leave Keningau without the permission of the district police headquarters.

The man had been placed under police supervision since May last year, as provided under the Drug Addicts Act (Rehabilitation and Treatment) 1983, because of his addiction. He was required to report to the Keningau district police headquarters once a month.

On Monday, the team found 13 plastic packets of the substance in several boxes and packages labelled as refined Chinese tea. All the packages were inside two bags which the man had checked in at the Low-Cost Carrier Terminal in Sepang.

Sabah Police Commissioner Datuk Hamza Taib yesterday said they were now looking into the possibility that the man was part of an international drug ring.

"He is likely to face three charges -- for trafficking, testing positive for drugs and breaching the conditions of his supervision order."

Police believe the drugs were meant to be distributed in the state but were unclear about the role played by the man, who could have either been a pusher or a courier.

Hamza also revealed that police had arrested 10,439 people for drug-related offences this year.

Of the total, 391 people were arrested for drug trafficking in 242 cases.

Prior to this seizure, the state police had seized about 5kg of syabu this year and about 8kg last year.