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TELUK INTAN — There has been an increase in the number of students arrested for drug-related offences last year.

A total of 987 students, including those in primary schools, were nabbed for various drug crimes.

In 2015, there were 821 cases involving students from primary schools to higher learning institutions.

While federal police remained tight-lipped over the type of offences, Bukit

Aman Narcotics Criminal Investigation Department director Datuk Seri Mohd Mokhtar Mohd Shariff revealed 539 of the students nabbed last year were from higher learning institutions and the rest from primary and secondary schools.

"We have also seen a 173 per cent increase in the number of students who were drug traffickers, up from 41 in 2015 to 112 last year," he said.

"Students should be focusing on their studies and not be involved in drugs."

Mokhtar said the total number of drug-related cases nationwide had also gone up by eight per cent over the past two years. Police arrested 192,663 Malaysians

and 7,923 foreigners — 479 of them for trafficking — in 2015.

They also seized 52,284kg of drugs in 2016, an increase of 56 per cent over 2015's haul of 33,460kg.

However, the value of the drugs seized dropped 21 per cent, from RM238.87 million in 2015 to RM189.85 million last year.

"The market value of the drugs, especially methamphetamine, dropped last year, causing the value of the seized drugs to decrease," he said.

Mokhtar stressed the country was not a major production hub for drugs, adding that they were mostly brought in by land,

sea, air as well as online.

He refuted suggestions this was because of poor security at the nation's borders.

"If border control is weak, we wouldn't have seized RM200 million worth of drugs. But these traffickers are always thinking of ways to outsmart the authorities," he said.

"There are millions of travellers and cargo coming in every month. What is important is that we are in control."

Asked about the rise in drug cases, he said: "There has been an increase but we are not losing the war."

"Drugs are a national enemy. We will not have any sympathy in our fight to bring traffickers to justice."



Mokhtar (centre) and senior Perak police officers show the weapons and other items seized during the three-day operation. — Picture by Marcus Pheong



What is a practice hand grenade?

A PRACTICE hand grenade provides realistic training and familiarises the user with the functions and characteristics of fragmentation of a hand grenade.

It is usually made of steel, comes with a safety clip and weighs 396 gm.

It can be thrown 40m by an average soldier. There is generally a small puff of white smoke after a delay of four to five seconds followed by a loud popping noise.

The grenade's body can be used repeatedly by replacing the fuse assembly.

99 arrested in 86 raids over three days

TELUK INTAN — A series of police raids — 86 to be exact — over three days led to the arrests of 99 people for drug-related offences in Hilir Perak.

The operations, carried out between Dec 27 and 29, by the federal police Special Tactical Intelligence Narcotics Group (STING) and Perak Narcotics Investigation Department, also led to the seizure of a fake hand grenade, a practice hand grenade, a .22 revolver and a fake pistol.

Other items seized included 49 9mm bullets,

handcuffs and six machetes — all found when police raided a workshop in Labu Kubong on Dec 27.

Bukit Aman Narcotics Criminal Investigation Department director Datuk Seri Mohd Mokhtar Mohd Shariff said eight people were arrested during the raid on the workshop.

“We will be forming a special taskforce and conducting ballistic tests to find out where these weapons came from. This is only the beginning,” he told reporters at a

press conference at the Hilir Perak police headquarters yesterday.

Investigators believe the explosives were probably used to scare away law enforcement officials as well as rival gangs.

Mokhtar said 81 of the 99 arrested were Malaysians while the rest were from Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand and Indonesia.

He said 15 men were suspected of being involved in trafficking, and 17 in drug possession.

Eighty-seven of those arrested tested

positive for drugs.

Mokhtar said the seized drugs consisted of 97.6gm of substances believed to be heroin, 71.97gm of suspected methamphetamine, 168.65gm of suspected marijuana and 12 Eramin 5 pills.

They were worth a total of RM7,078.

He said the detainees were being held for further investigation under the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952 and similar Acts.

“Similar operations will be held in this area,” he said.