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Nabbed – six foreigners with drugs in stomach

SEPANG: Six foreigners who swallowed drugs have been detained while trying to get past the Kuala Lumpur International Airport checkpoint.

Customs assistant director-general (Enforcement) <u>Datuk Zainul Abidin Taib</u> said syabu weighing about 2.56kg worth RM626,500 had been retrieved from three of them two Nigerians and one Iranian aged 31, 32 and 27.

The syabu was stuffed in thumb-sized tablets and wrapped in condoms, he told a press conference here yesterday.

Zainal Abidin said the other three foreigners whose identities had been withheld were still having their stomachs flushed.

"Flushing the stomach is a tedious process that can take more than five hours," he added.

He said the six suspects were arrested separately over the last two weeks. Customs officers noticed them behaving suspiciously and did body checks before ordering a scan. "The trend of swallowing drugs seems to be making a comeback. We believe that international syndicates have reverted to this tactic due to the numerous successes that we have had sniffing out drugs hidden in luggage," he said.

"Initial investigations revealed that one of the two Nigerians had succeeded in a previous attempt to bring drugs into the country. It was the first time for the other two suspects. They all posed as tourists."

He said Customs officers also detained an Indian national on Feb 25 at the LCCT airport and seized 4kg of ketamine worth RM72,000 hidden in his luggage.

Since January this year, 11 suspected traffickers have been arrested and 44.4kg of drugs worth RM8.3mil seized.