

## Officers foil nutty attempt to smuggle drugs

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PUTRAJAYA: It was a novel idea and clearly time was spent stuffing the illicit white powder into thousands of little “cashew nuts”.

But the drug mule could not get past eagle-eyed Customs officers at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA).

Fake plastic cashew nuts have emerged as the most ingenious means used to smuggle drugs so far.

Small amounts of ketamine were stashed into the “cashew nuts” which were loaded into a check-in bag brought in by an Indian national. He was detained on April 19.



Bags of nuts: Siti Baya and her colleagues displaying the packets of fake cashew nuts stuffed with ketamine seized from an Indian national who landed at KLIA recently.

KLIA Customs deputy [director Siti Baya Berahan](#) said officers on duty were suspicious when they noticed the scanner reflecting a weird hue from the nuts.

They found that the “nuts”, weighing 9.3kg, were actually hollow fake plastic replicas with tiny holes at one end.

“The drugs were stored inside the plastic nuts and cotton was used to plug the holes,” Siti Baya told reporters at her office here.

The suspect, who was on his second visit after just one month, was believed to have been carrying RM373,480 worth of ketamine.

Another suspect was detained a few days earlier on April 16 for smuggling in 850gm of metamphetamine worth RM212,500.

Siti Baya said the suspect, a Nigerian student at a private college in Kuala Lumpur, stashed the drugs in a special compartment inside his laptop the first time Customs had come across such a method.

A third suspect, a Romanian, was detained on April 10 for having 3.3kg of metamphetamine with a street value of RM825,000.

He, however, used the more conventional method of carrying the illegal substance in a hidden compartment in his luggage.

Siti Baya said Customs officers had arrested six people since the beginning of the month for attempting to smuggle drugs worth RM3.68mil through KLIA.