

## Police make year's biggest ketamine haul

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PETALING JAYA — Police smashed a drug syndicate active in the Klang Valley with the seizure of 210kg of ketamine and discovery of a laboratory in separate raids this week.

The seizure, with a street value of RM15.5 million, was the biggest haul of ketamine this year.

Three suspected members of the syndicate were also arrested during the raids carried out in Kuala Lumpur, Bukit Jalil and Klang since Tuesday.

Besides ketamine, other types of drugs seized included 9,500 Erimin V pills, 6,510 Ecstasy pills and 5.8kg of processed syabu.

The suspects, aged between 33 and 37, later led the raiding party to a storage area and their laboratory.

**“They do not only distribute but are armed with weapons. This is a serious problem. We will do what it takes to combat this in accordance with the law.”**

— Mokhtar

Federal police Narcotics Investigation Department director Datuk Seri Mokhtar Mohd Shariff said the drugs could have been enough to supply 540,000 addicts.

He said the ketamine was believed to have been smuggled from China, while the other drugs were locally processed.

“The syndicate members would distribute the ketamine at entertainment centres,” he said.

“We are checking to see if there was any increase in demand for ketamine.”

Mokhtar said the suspects were not qualified chemists, but did not rule out they could have learnt how to process the drug over Internet.

Since January, police have seized 162.77kg of ketamine, making the latest seizure to be the largest.

Shariff said investigations were ongoing



The drugs and paraphernalia seized during the raids. — Picture by Mukhriz Hazim

to determine how long the group had been active and who their mastermind was.

They have been remanded until next Wednesday.

Mokhtar revealed 189,190 drug offenders were nabbed since Jan 1 until Tuesday.

He said 7,508 foreigners were arrested and various types of drugs with a street value totalling RM211.98 million were seized.

Police also seized 42 pistols, a semi-automatic pistol, three revolvers, hand grenades and bullets during the raids.

“They do not only distribute but are armed with weapons,” he said.

“This is a serious problem. We will do what it takes to combat this in accordance with the law.”

“The war on drugs is ongoing. We will not stop to track down these offenders.”