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Singapore drug trafficker nabbed after 11-years on run

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KUALA LUMPUR — A Singaporean, who was on the republic's wanted list for the past 11 years, was arrested along with five others in raids in the Klang Valley and Johor.

With the arrests, police believe they have busted a drug trafficking syndicate involved in smuggling drugs into Indonesia.

Police seized an assortment of drugs worth about RM8.5million during the raids on Saturday which were carried out in Bangsar, Damansara, Rawang and Johor, which could meet the needs of 550,000 drug addicts.

The drugs comprised 64.17kg of methamphetamine, 61.53kg ketamine powder and 23,985 Ecstasy pills.

Federal police Narcotics Criminal Investigations Department (NCID) director Commissioner Datuk Seri Mohd Mokhtar Mohd Shariff said the syndicate's kingpin was a 58-year-old Singaporean who had been shuttling across the Causeway without proper travel documents for some time.

Police revealed the man was overseeing operations with the help of a fellow Singaporean and four locals, while remaining in Johor for slightly over a month.

Investigators are reviewing documents of the other Singaporean to establish its authenticity.

Mohd Mokhtar said the syndicate imported, repacked and smuggled the contraband to Indonesia.

"Syndicate members had put some of the drugs in tea packets which were then wrapped with black paper, while others were in clear plastic packaging.

The syndicate, Mohd Mokhtar said, had used an upscale condominium in Damansara Perdana, Petaling Jaya, as their warehouse.

"We believe the drugs could have been imported from neighbouring countries in the Golden Triangle, (Myanmar, Laos, Thailand). We are investigating how the drugs were trafficked out of the country," he said.

"Police swung into action following the arrests of four local men, aged between 32 and 47, in Damansara Perdana and Bangsar. They led us to the condominium which had been converted into a storage facility."

Mohd Mokhtar said two of the locals had previous criminal convictions, while also testing positive for methamphetamine when screened.

Simultaneously, police arrested the kingpin and the second Singaporean, aged 43.

Police also seized valuables which included jewellery, luxury watches and cars worth around RM1.5million.

Those detained have been remanded until May 13 to facilitate investigations.

Mohd Mokhtar said since early this year RM84.72 million worth drugs were seized with a large amount being methamphetamine.

During the same period, 66,243 people were arrested for drug related offences, with 2,732 being foreigners.

Mohd Mokhtar said among those arrested, 36,938 tested positive for drugs, while 8,957 were nabbed for trafficking drugs and 20,348 arrested for drug possession.