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South African `bride-to-be` nabbed with drugs



Hauled in: Abdullah Sidik (second from left) with deputy director (enforcement) Zulkurnain Mohamed Yusof (left) and investigation officer Lim Kee Yee (third from left) showing the drugs seized from the woman during the press conference in Johor Baru.

JOHOR BARU: A South African “bride-to-be” was arrested by Customs officers at the Senai Airport last Thursday for attempting to smuggle drugs into the country.

The 22-year-old suspect was nabbed about 11.10pm after arriving from the KL International Airport via a flight from Chennai, India.

State Customs deputy director Abdullah Sidik said a scan of the woman’s luggage showed two packets suspected to contain drugs covered with aluminium foils hidden in a compartment.

“We believe the packets contained methamphetamine weighing about 4.9kg and valued at RM931,000,” he said in a press conference yesterday.

Abdullah said the unemployed woman, a first-time visitor to Malaysia, claimed that she came to Johor to look around for places of interest for her honeymoon either at the end of the year or early next year.

He said that prior to arriving in Kuala Lumpur on Sept 12, the suspect had boarded a flight from Johannesburg to Bangkok and from there she took another flight to New Delhi.

“From the Indian capital, she travelled to Chennai by plane before flying to Kuala Lumpur and taking a connecting flight to Johor Baru,” said Abdullah, adding that she had been travelling for about eight days before arriving in Malaysia.

The suspect has been remanded to assist in investigations. The case is being investigated under Section 39B (1)(a) of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952, which carries a mandatory death penalty upon conviction.

This is the third drugs case this year involving foreigners at the Senai Airport.

In March and May, two Indian nationals were caught smuggling 18.95kg of drugs worth RM2.16mil.