

## South African caught trying to smuggle 3.11kg of cocaine in KLIA

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Chik Omar showing the seized drugs in Sepang on Feb 17, 2016. SUNPIX by NORMAN HIU

**SEPANG:** A South African national was caught after she smuggled 3.11kg of cocaine in chocolate jars here on Feb 14.

KLIA customs director Datuk Chik Omar Chik Lim said the drugs were seized at the KLIA arrival hall.

"We managed to intercept the drug smuggling attempt into our country based on surveillance and intelligence," Chik Omar said during a press conference at the KLIA Customs today.

In the incident, customs officers confiscated the cocaine worth RM622,000 stashed in chocolate jars in a luggage bag.

"During the arrest, the suspect was waiting at the arrival hall and was scheduled to take off to Kota Baru after arriving from Dubai at 7.30am," he said, adding that the department was in the midst of identifying the mastermind behind the drug trafficking.

Chik Omar said the suspect is a 28-year-old woman who claimed to be a tourist.

"The motive is not something new ... the suspect was just trying to puzzle us just like previous traffickers who stashed drugs in secret compartments of their bags and in shoes to avoid detection.

"Initial investigations also revealed that the woman is in the country for the first time," he said.

The suspect has been remanded to facilitate investigations under Section 39B of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952.

Meanwhile, about 20 individuals were arrested for drug trafficking in 2015 (RM22.3 million), 24 individuals in 2014 (RM62.2million) and 53 individuals in 2013 (RM46.54) according to statistics from the KLIA Customs department.