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Bukit Aman: Not true that we refused to help in war on drugs

KUALA LUMPUR: Police denied that they refused cooperation with their Indonesian counterparts in the international war on drugs.

Bukit Aman Narcotics Crime Investigation Department director Comm Datuk Seri Mohd Mokhtar Mohd Shariff was referring to an Indonesian media report last month quoting anti-drug authorities there claiming that Malaysian police did not offer proper cooperation.

"I would like to be very clear on this," said Comm Mohd Mokhtar. "First, we are not sure how accurate the report is. The report could have misquoted or misunderstood the person they were quoting.

"However, I deny that the Royal Malaysian Police did not cooperate with our Indonesian counterpart or enforcement agencies from any other country," he told reporters at Bukit Aman yesterday.

He said both Malaysian and Indonesian Police had a close working relationship in the efforts to combat drugs.

"We have strong bilateral ties, regularly hold joint meetings and have an agreement on fighting drugs together in 2005," said Comm Mohd Mokhtar.

"We work to stop drugs from entering Indonesia and we have openly shared intelligence on drug cases with them," he added.

Comm Mohd Mokhtar said that in January, for instance, his department alerted Indonesia to a drug syndicate which led to the arrests of four men, including a man from Hong Kong.

"This involved the seizure of 250,460 Ecstasy pills, 1,351kg syabu, and 560 Erimin 5 pills besides the uncovering of an illegal drug lab," he said.

"So, to say that we are not cooperative is not true."

Proving how serious Bukit Aman was in combating the drug menace, Comm Mohd



Drug bust: (From right) Bukit Aman Narcotics Crime Investigation Department deputy director Datuk Kang Chez Chiang, Selangor Customs Department Director Datuk Sarip Ismail and Comm Mohd Mokhtar with the seized drugs.

Mokhtar said RM81mil worth of drugs were confiscated and more than 55,000 people were arrested this year alone.

This, he said, was achieved through the cooperation between the department and the Special Tactical Intelligence Narcotics Group (STING).

"We seized RM81.67mil worth of drugs. A

total 55,903 people, including 2,304 foreigners, were arrested," he added.

Comm Mohd Mokhtar said RM49.16mil worth of property from drug-related cases were also confiscated.

"This is a direct result of our hard stance against drugs and enforcing the laws of the land," he said.