

19 SEPTEMBER 2017

## Woman back to old ways after rehab stint

ALLEGED DRUG TRAFFICKING

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**IPOH:** It must be true what they say, that old habits die hard. But for one 38-year-old woman, it seems these old habits have taken a turn for the worse.

On Thursday, just eight months after being released from a drug rehabilitation centre in Batu Gajah, the mother of three was arrested by police again, this time on suspicion of trafficking.

State Narcotics Department chief Assistant Commissioner V.R. Ravi Chandran said the woman was picked up at 12.10am at Kampar Trading Centre, where she had rented a room on the third floor.

"During the raid, police seized 3.07kg of syabu and 3l of ethanol worth RM214,770.

"She also tested positive for methamphetamine and was remanded for seven days beginning Thursday," he said at the state police headquarters yesterday.

Ravi Chandran said the woman had a criminal record for drug-related offences, adding that the last one led to her being sent to the rehabilitation centre after being arrested in Shah Alam on July 19 last year under the Dangerous Drugs (Special Preventive Measures) Act 1985.

She was released from the centre on Jan 11.

"(We believe) the woman is ac-



Perak Narcotics Department chief Assistant Commissioner V.R. Ravi Chandran showing the items seized during a raid, at the state police headquarters in Ipoh yesterday. PIC BY L MANIMARAN

tive in drug trafficking in Selangor and we are investigating where she got her supply."

In a separate case, he said, police detained four men, aged between 17 and 23, including two brothers, for being in possession of drugs at a house in Pokok Assam, Taiping, on Wednesday.

"In the 5.30pm raid, police seized 218.33g of heroin worth RM5,458 and two motorcycles. Further checks revealed that two

of them had criminal records involving drugs.

"They were remanded for seven days until Wednesday to facilitate investigations," he said, adding that both cases were being investigated under Section 39B of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952, which carried the mandatory death penalty upon conviction.

Ravi Chandran said, until August this year, 5,573 people were

arrested in the state for drug offences, a 20 per cent increase compared with the corresponding period last year.

"During the same period, police seized 79.18kg of syabu, 934.54g of ketamine, ecstasy (2,480 pills), yaba (180,001 pills), Eramin-5 (18,098 pills), 76.24kg of ganja and 32.17kg of heroin," he said, adding that the total drug seizure amounted to RM10.5 million.