

Customs foils attempt to smuggle 67kg drugs

Such crimes cause financial losses, threaten national security and public safety: Department

ALOR SETAR: The Customs Department foiled an attempt to smuggle 67.48kg of ganja flowers estimated to be worth over RM6.2 million at the Tambak Persisiran Pantai Bukit Putih area in Kuala Perlis last month.

Kedah Customs director Wan Marini Wan Hamzah said the operation was based on intelligence and carried out by officers from the Langkawi Marine Enforcement Branch along with the elite Customs Operational Battle Force Response Assault team at 10pm.

Authorities discovered an abandoned wooden boat with four gunny sacks labelled in Thai. Further checks revealed that the sacks contained a large quantity of ganja flowers.

She said the drugs are believed to have been smuggled in from a neighbouring country using the boat.

"I urge the public to support the department in the fight against the smuggling of any goods or vehicles. Such crimes not only

national security and public safety."

In Pahang, police busted a drug trafficking syndicate with the seizure of RM5.34 million worth of drugs in raids in Bentong and Maran last week.

State police chief Datuk Seri Yahaya Othman said in the raid conducted on Nov 4 in Bentong, police seized 240 transparent plastic packages containing 140.4kg of substances suspected to be ganja flowers valued at RM5.04 million.

He said the drugs were found in a car that was abandoned at the East Coast Rail Link project site, Bernama reported.

A check of the vehicle's registration number found that it was registered in the name of a local man with an address in Johor Bahru, he said.

He added that in the second raid on Nov 6, police arrested a 37-year-old local man and seized 102 transparent plastic packages containing 98kg of substances believed to be ganja worth RM303,800.

Yahaya said the seizure was made from a car that was intercepted at the Maran Rest and Recreation Area heading towards Kuala Lumpur.

He also said the suspect tested positive for amphetamines, and checks revealed that he has 10 records related to drug offences.

The case is being investigated under

which provides the death penalty or life imprisonment and not less than 12 strokes of the cane upon conviction.

In another case, at the KL International Airport (KLIA), the department foiled an attempt to smuggle in 6.88kg of ketamine valued at over RM344,000 by a 26-year-old Chinese tourist on Oct 28.

KLIA Customs director Zulkifli Muhammad said the suspect was detained in cooperation with the Border Control and Protection Agency at the Terminal Two arrival hall after a scan of the suspect's luggage showed suspicious items.

"Upon inspection of the luggage, we found several small transparent plastic packages containing a powder suspected to be ketamine wrapped in aluminum foil, covered with cardboard and hidden inside the cloth lining of the luggage."

He said the suspect and the seized items were handed over to the Customs Department KLIA Enforcement Division for further investigation.

He added that the case is being investigated under Section 39B(1)(a) of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952 and the suspect has been charged in court.

Zulkifli called on the public to help the department address smuggling crimes, especially involving cigarettes, liquor,