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Police cut dadah pipeline to nightspots (HL)

R.V. Veera

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Confirming the authorities' long-held suspicions that nightspots are being used as dadah "fronts", police swooped on five States early this month, culminating in the arrests of two dadah kingpins who doubled as discotheque owners in the Klang Valley.

The kingpins, who are said to have accumulated assets worth several million ringgit from the sale of dadah, are being detained under the Dangerous Drugs (Special Preventive Measures) Act 1985.

Both will be detained for two years, subject to a review by the Home Minister.

One of them, a 37-year-old man, was picked up in Taman Maluri, Cheras, while the other, a 31-year-old man, was arrested in Subang Jaya, last Friday.

The 37-year-old man was managing a popular discotheque in the Cheras area while the other man was the joint owner of another well-patronised discotheque in Damansara Jaya.

Their fate was sealed when their "suppliers", all 14 of them, who were rounded up in Petaling Jaya, Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh, Kapar, and Kuala Selangor on June 12, "sang like a canary", after police interrogation, and pointed their fingers at them.

The 14, who were among 25 people detained in a 14-day operation which began on June 1, were active in supplying heroin, raw opium, ganja and Ecstasy pills to entertainment outlets in the Klang Valley.

The police success came after four months of painstaking undercover operations, following controversy sparked by a ruling by the local authorities that all entertainment outlets in Kuala Lumpur and Petaling Jaya shut down their operations by 1am and midnight, respectively.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also the Home Minister, had ordered a close watch on the nightspots to stamp out dadah abuse, which the owners claimed they had no control over as dadah traffickers could easily mingle with the crowd.

Dr Mahathir had warned that the Government would implement laws to charge operators found involved in dadah abuse and to impose stiffer jail terms and fines.

Federal Police Narcotics director Datuk Salleh Mat Som confirmed the arrests but declined to give details of the case.

Sources told the New Straits Times that the arrests of the 25 people including two women followed a series of integrated operations involving Federal and State police early this month.

The operation involved officers from the Federal police narcotics department in Bukit Aman and the State police contingents of Johor, Kelantan, Perak, Penang and Selangor.

They said police seized a total of 302kg of ganja, 17kg of heroin and 88kg of raw opium from them.

The breakthrough came on June 1 when six men were arrested in Overseas Union Garden and 17kg of heroin seized.

Following questioning, police arrested two women at a house in Rantau Panjang, Kelantan. A search of the premises led to the recovery of 120kg of ganja.

The following day, police seized 147.7kg of ganja from a car in Seberang Prai.

However, the driver of the car, who is suspected to be responsible for

bringing in the consignment from a neighbouring country, escaped.

He is expected to be picked up soon as he had left his identity card behind.

On June 12, police raided a house in Section 8 in Petaling Jaya and seized 88kg of raw opium.

Two men were picked up.

Follow-up operations in Taman City here, the Ipoh South toll plaza, Kapar, and Jeram, Kuala Selangor, led to the arrests of 12 more suspected traffickers.

After interrogating the 14 traffickers, police arrested the two discotheque owners between 9pm and midnight, the following day.

The last raid was conducted in a house in Pasir Puteh in Pasir Gudang, Johor, on June 14 and five more men were held for possessing 33.8kg of ganja.

Meanwhile, police are looking for Soorya Kumar Narayansamy @ Soorya Kumar Narayanan (IC No: 7336647) of Ladang Bentong, Bentong, Pahang or 7, Jalan Desa 4/10, Country Homes, Rawang, to assist investigations into dadah trafficking in entertainment outlets in the Klang Valley.

Anyone with information on his whereabouts is advised to contact the nearest police station.

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