

Malaysian police bust drug ring that used S'pore courier services

Acting on information from CNB, cops seize \$1.6m worth of drugs, arrest five Malaysians last month

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A Malaysian syndicate used courier services in Singapore to traffic drugs to other countries through the Republic.

The syndicate is believed to have been operating in this fashion since January and had been monitored by the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) since July.

Acting on information from CNB, the Narcotics Crime Investi-

gation Department (NCID) of the Royal Malaysian Police arrested five Malaysians allegedly linked to the syndicate between Sept 24 and 28.

The four women and one man, aged between 21 and 71, are suspected to be involved in drug trafficking activities in and around Kuala Lumpur and Selangor.

In a press statement yesterday, CNB said close to 55kg of drugs worth about RM4.9 million (S\$1.6 million) were seized during a series of raids in Selangor, Negeri Sembilan and Kuala Lumpur.

In total, 5.8kg of methamphetamine and 14.8kg of ketamine as well as 34.3kg of powder and 30.1 litres of liquid methylenedioxymethamphetamine – more commonly known as MDMA – were seized.

The authorities also found drug processing equipment and 2.2kg of caffeine believed to be used in drug production.

In a press conference with the Malaysian media, the NCID said it also seized three cars worth about RM240,000 in total, and another RM426,000 from 11 bank accounts.

The authorities said the five individuals arrested were only runners who did drug deliveries and that the mastermind of the drug trafficking operation was still at large.

Parcels containing children's toys and dolls (left) were found to have drugs (right) – suspected to be methamphetamine, or Ice – in between the corrugated cardboard. The parcels were seized during a series of raids in Malaysia between Sept 24 and 28. PHOTOS: NCID, MALAYSIA

One of the five individuals arrested was expected to be charged in Malaysia yesterday.

Assistant Commissioner Leon Chan, deputy director of CNB (Operations), said the swift arrests were testament to the close cooperation between the Singapore and Malaysian law enforcement authorities.

"Both agencies will continue to share intelligence in a timely fashion and work closely together against transnational drug traffick-

ing activities," he said. "Singapore does not tolerate the activities of syndicates which make use of Singapore's connectivity to ship their drugs, and CNB will continue to work closely with our foreign counterparts to interdict the supply of drugs and to prevent Singapore from being used as a transshipment hub for drugs," AC Chan added.

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Former inspection officer at BCA jailed 8 weeks for corruption

Wong Shiying

A former inspection officer at the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) who abused his position in public service to solicit business for his own company was jailed for eight weeks and ordered to pay \$600 in penalties yesterday.

Tan Ming Lie, 32, pleaded guilty to one count of corruption. A simi-

lar charge was taken into consideration for sentencing.

The court heard that Tan, a temporary worker at BCA, was responsible for inspecting construction sites and dormitories to ensure that Covid-19 safe management measures were being followed.

On Nov 24 last year, Tan was tasked to inspect a construction site at 69 Begonia Drive managed by Domain Trading & Construc-

tion. When he contacted Domain

Trading's general manager, Mr Goh pressed Tan for his credentials and asked if they could communicate via Tan's BCA e-mail address as the safety dress but Tan refused. During the site inspection the next day, Tan told site staff that Angelshield is a management consultancy services, and Tan is its sole director and shareholder. When Mr Goh asked Tan if he was from BCA, Tan said yes, but said he did not have a name card when Mr Goh asked to see it. Mr

Angelshield to draft the plan. He

paid Tan \$600 for the service. Tan's offences came to light when another company reported

him to the BCA for taking bribes. When questioned by BCA, Tan lied that Angelshield was owned by his wife. Seeking at least 10 weeks' jail, Deputy Public Prosecutor Stephanie Chew said Tan had directly contravened his duty as public service officer in soliciting business for his own company. In mitigation, Tan said he committed the offence for the survival of his company. For corruption, Tan could have been fined up to \$100,000 and jailed for up to five years.

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