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Customs' sniffer dogs uncover almost RM80m worth of drugs

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Customs Department recorded 248 drug-related cases in the first six months of this year, which saw its canines sniffing out RM79.74 million worth of drugs.

Director-general Datuk Anis Rizana Mohd Zainudin said 41 sniffer dogs from its K9 Unit were instrumental in specialised operations.

The dogs played a crucial role in the department's enforcement division operations against narcotics smugglers.

Last year, there were 673 cases with RM372.16 million worth of drugs seized, while in 2022, there were 409 cases with drug seizures valued at RM65.35 million.

She said 20 new dogs were acquired from India last month.

The Labrador and German Shepherd breeds, which cost RM1.9 million, are attached to the department's enforcement division.

The new dogs are undergoing

intensive training to prepare them for field duties, in enhancing the department's capacity to combat drug smuggling.

Anis Rizana said the dogs were trained to detect the contraband items hidden on a person's body, luggage, boxes, vehicle compartments, postal parcels, premises, and containers, among others.

"The dogs are able to uncover concealed substances.

"The dogs complement scanning machines installed at the country's entry and exit points, by speeding up suspicious cargo inspection and clearance processes," she told the *New Straits Times*.

She added that 20 customs officers across the country underwent training to manage the dogs.

During a recent visit to the Customs K9 narcotics unit in Jijan in Negri Sembilan, Anis Rizana reviewed the unit's operations and inspected the dogs' kennels.



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SUMMARIES

KUALA LUMPUR: The Customs Department recorded 248 drugrelated cases in the first six months of this year, which saw its canines sniffing out RM79.74 million worth of drugs. Direc tor-general Datuk Anis Rizana Mohd Zainudin said 41 sniffer dogs from its K9 Unit were instrumental in specialised operations. The dogs played a crucial role in the department’s enforcement division operations against narcotics smugglers.Last year, there were 673 cases with RM372.