

2 held for smuggling 18 people

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THE Immigration Department arrested two members of a migrant smuggling syndicate on Friday for trying to smuggle in 18 Indonesian immigrants.

Immigration Department director-general Datuk Khairul Dzaimie Daud said the two suspects, a 33-year-old former civil servant and a 35-year-old Indonesian, were arrested during Op Seludup, which was conducted with the armed forces in Tanjung Sedili, 40km from here.

“During the operation, the 18 immigrants were being transported in three vehicles driven by the suspects and another driver who escaped.

“The operation was carried out after we received a tip-off that a group of immigrants was expected to land in Tanjung Lompat beach between 3am and 5am,” he said yesterday.

He said the syndicate had been active since the Movement Control Order was



Some of the immigrants arrested in Tanjung Sedili, Kota Tinggi, on Friday. PIC COURTESY OF IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

implemented last year.

“The syndicate’s modus operandi is to collaborate with *tekong laut* (boat captains) who would land on beaches in Johor and provide transportation to transport the immigrants to their employers. Each immigrant is believed to have been charged RM800 to RM1,500 by the syndicate.”

He said the suspects were being investigated under Section 26A of Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants Act 2007, while the immigrants were being investigated under Section 6(1)(c) of the Immigration Act.