

23 charged over alleged Geng 24 Hung-Hung organised crime links

KUCHING: Twenty-three men, aged between 19 and 44, were charged separately at the Sessions Court here over alleged involvement in the organised crime group, Geng 24 Hung-Hung.

However, no plea was recorded as the cases were pending transfer to the High Court.

All those charged have been on remand since their respective arrests last month under Section 13(1) of the Security Offences (Special Measures) Act 2012 (Sosma).

They were arrested during the police's Ops Pusak Merah between April 19 and 23.

Following an application by the prosecution for extended remand at the Kuching Prisons in Puncak Borneo here, the court fixed June 22 for mention.

Based on the charge sheets, the 23 are accused of being involved

in organised criminal activity as members of Geng 24 Hung-Hung between December 2021 and April 20 this year, at an oil palm plantation in Kampung Temaga Cina-Dayak, Sematan.

The offence carries imprisonment of between five and 20 years upon conviction.

All those accused arrived at court at around 12.30pm, ahead of proceedings which began at 2.30pm.

Family members were also seen at the courthouse.

The accused were heavily guarded by armed and masked security personnel throughout their presence at the courthouse.

The Deputy Public Prosecutors (DPPs) are Shafiq Kasim and Maryam Jamielah Ab Manaff.

The cases were heard before Judges Musli Ab Hamid, Iris Awen Jon and Noorhisham Mohd Jaafar.

Among the lawyers representing the accused were Dato Shankar Ram, Hani Iryani Bonny, Patrick Voon, Ralph Lee, Daniel Ling, Tiong Ing Neng, Venessa Yii and Boston Ho.

All defence counsels indicated that they would reserve submissions on bail until the cases had been transferred to the High Court.

Meanwhile, Bukit Aman Criminal Investigation Department (CID) director Datuk M Kumar, in a statement, said that 23 local male suspects were detained during Ops Pusak Merah.

According to him, the group – led by a 41-year-old man – has been active since 2020, and is believed to have comprised 26 members, many of whom are repeat offenders.



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Police escorting some of those charged at the Kuching Courthouse. — Photo by Chimon Upon

Geng 24 Hung-Hung: Three other members still at large, efforts to track them down ongoing — PDRM

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Police also seized a pump-action shotgun, 12-bore ammunition, two 'samurai' swords and two machetes during the operation.

"The Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM) have also identified three other members still at large, and efforts to track them

down are ongoing," he said.

Kumar added that all those arrested had prior criminal records involving offences such as murder, gang robbery, arson, causing injury and grievous hurt, housebreaking, theft, vehicle theft, possession of stolen property and drug trafficking.

The group is also believed

to have carried out extortion activities to collect protection money, including attacking premises that refused to pay.

"It is further believed to have engaged in criminal intimidation and assaults against individuals who defied their demands, as well as other serious offences to expand its influence and gain profit," said Kumar.