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Secret code

LORRIES BEARING SPECIAL LOGOS TARGET OF RTD OPERATION

KLANG: They carry stickers with words like *Bunga Raya*, *Harimau*, *Datuk* and *Petronas*. The names seem harmless enough, except that they are secret codes that spell corruption and protection.

These codes and emblems have been used by lorries for years, indicating how long such a clandestine racket has been going on.

However, things came to a head last Thursday when 21 overloaded lorries with the "Datuk" logo crashed through RTD roadblocks in Ipoh, and suddenly the game plan changed.

The Road Transport Department (RTD) has now gone on the offensive by launching an operation codenamed *Ops Logo* yesterday to crack down on overloaded lorries supposedly having these "immunity" stickers.

RTD enforcement director Salim Parlan said the lorries' logo stickers are supposedly signals that they are to be accorded special treatment by certain quarters and that they are protected by "tontos" (a term that refers to those who tail enforcement officers on their rounds so as to warn others).

"We launched *Ops Logo* after

21 overloaded lorries with the "Datuk" logo crashed into RTD roadblocks on Thursday," Salim was quoted by Bernama.

Lorries with such stickers are said to have paid certain RTD officers "protection money" and sought the services of the tontos who would warn them of RTD roadblocks.

Salim said the use of such stickers by overloaded lorries in trying to escape the law was rampant in the Klang Valley, Perak, Johor and Penang.

In the Klang Valley, lorries said to be enjoying "immunity" are those with the stickers CB, TNS, SYT, SHH, SKP, Bob, Transnet, *Gajah Tunggal* (Lone Elephant), *Roda* (Wheel) and Five-Pointed Star.

In Perak, the stickers come in the form of *Menara Condong* (Leaning Tower), *Harimau* (Tiger), *Bunga Raya* (Hibiscus) *Kunci* (Key) or logos of Kuala Lumpur, Perak, Kelantan, CSH, Petronas, *Datuk*, *MLT*, *See Hup* and *L. Thian*.

Penang lorries have simpler stickers which include RL, 529, BSK, 383 and PT.

On claims that some RTD officers are protecting lorries with such stickers, Salim said the department is probing such



Show stealers ...

Eric Chong has been named Designer of the Year at the Malaysian-International Fashion Awards 2007 held last night at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre in conjunction with the Malaysian International Fashion Week, and Hartini Mat Jasni was awarded Model of the Year. Other awards given that night included Most Promising Designer, Best Casual Wear, Best Evening Wear and Best Avant Garde. On Saturday night, *The Edge* and *theSun* collaborated with the Malaysian International Fashion Alliance to present The KL Six gala.

» See pages 26 and 27 for story and photos.

claims in several states.

He added that stern action has been taken against overloaded lorries with 69,499 cases in 2005 rising to 83,862 cases last year.

The RTD will also be using mobile weighing machines to check overloaded lorries, thus speeding up enforcement action unlike previously when the lorries had to be taken to weigh stations.

"Twenty mobile weighing machines costing RM100,000 each will be bought by year

end," said Salim.

The use of secret code to signify protection by certain groups was also detected a number of years ago when gambling horse-racing machines were the rage in entertainment centres. In several raids covered by newspapers, some machines had unusual codes that did not mean anything to the public. But those in the know say that the code was a signal to enforcement officers that money had been paid for protection.



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Runway success

THE KL SIX PROVE THAT MALAYSIAN DESIGNERS ARE WORTHY OF INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

by Soo Wern Jun

MORE than 500 people, including celebrities, trade buyers, fashion designers and fashion enthusiasts from the corporate world, witnessed the latest creations by Eric Choong, Melinda Looi, Radzuan Radziwill, Rizalman Ibrahim, Sonny San and Datuk Tom Abang Saufi at the Malaysia-International Fashion Week KL Six gala night held at the KL Convention Centre last Saturday.

It was presented by *The Edge* and *theSun* in collaboration with the Malaysian International Fashion Alliance (Mifa).

In her speech, guest of honour Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Dr Ng Yen Yen said: "It is the dream of Malaysia that Kuala Lumpur will one day become a fashion trendsetter on par with Paris, Milan and various other fashion cities in the world."

"Being a multicultural country, the diversity of culture reflects our strength in going further in the fashion industry. These are seen through designers such as Zang Toi, Bernard Chandran and several others who have made it internationally."

Present were Mifa chairman Heah Sieu Lay, its managing director Syeba Yip, *The Edge/theSun* group managing director and group editor-in-chief Ho Kay Tat and *The Edge's Options* editor Surinder Jessy.

Three-in-one collection

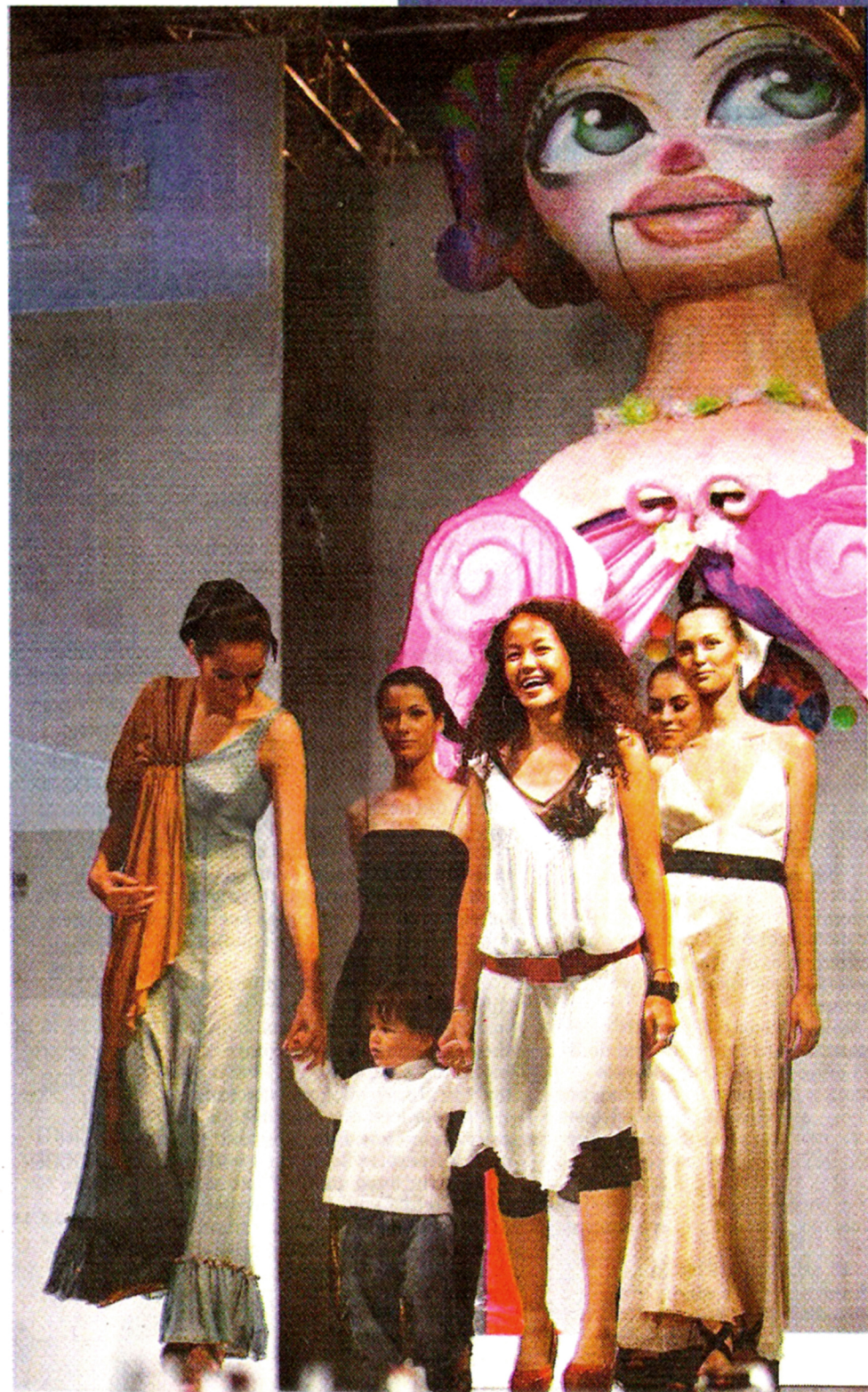
First on the runway was Eric Choong who featured his three collections - ready-to-wear, demi couture and haute couture. With shimmers and glitters, he added extra effects to his haute couture line using Swarovski's crystals on his signature layering style of softer fabrics like chiffon and silk against stronger textures of taffeta and sequins.

Next up was Melinda Looi, who is known for her bizarre creations yet elegant and fashionable. She presented her collection with the presence of a giant-sized man-made podium to suit her colour themes of pink, green, black, white and various other colours. The ready-to-wear collection was inspired by the holiday she took recently. This range is light and wearable but also fussy and sexy.

Making his presence felt was Radzuan Radziwill, whose wedding trousseaus have gained him a strong reputation. He stunned the audience with his collection that focused entirely on haute couture compared to the others that were mainly ready-to-wear.

Historically inspired, Rizalman Ibrahim's collection speaks of his manifesto to

Melinda Looi, her son Max and the models share the limelight.



(Top) A job well done! ... Datuk Dr Ng Yen Yen (fourth from right) with (from left) Ho Kay Tat, Surinder Jessy, Rizalman Ibrahim, Sonny San, Datuk Tom Abang Saufi, Radzuan Radziwill, Melinda Looi and Eric Choong.

push forward the traditional Malay dress, 'baju kurung' to international fashion consciousness. His collections highlighted the sleek, chic *baju kurung* made from black chiffon with simple detailing, Rizalman's signature kaftan and the evolution of the *kurung*. However it was not all black and gloomy as he also added tinges of shocking pink, turquoise and purple to spice up his collection for the night.

Saving the best for last

A master of ready-to-wear, Sonny San's collection stressed fluidity using lightweight, luxurious silks with his signature shade of black. This time around, he has also injected brighter colours and some surprises that he has previously used. Models were clad in soft shades of grey, pearl, that gradually led to black and concluded with a strong yellow.

Finally, the audience were teased by some non-batik designs as the models took the runway with Datuk Tom Abang Saufi's glamorous rock chic elements that gradually eased into her signature batik. Being her fourth consecutive time with the Malaysia-International Fashion Week, she kept to what she is renowned for - clothes with minimal use of fastenings that are easy to slip on and off.

Her collection was inspired by the 20s which can clearly be seen from the colour combinations and bold patterns. Her choice of fabrics are of

satin, silk and chiffon while adding hints of duchess satin to the mix.

After the show, the designers received a token of appreciation from Datuk Dr Ng Yen Yen. It was a night to remember as the KL Six showed their best work to make everyone sit up and take notice!

Celebrity model ... Ziana Zain models for Rizalman Ibrahim



Rizalman Ibrahim

Sonny San

Radzuan Radziwill

Eric Choong

Datuk Tom Abang Saufi