

2 WEDNESDAY, 4TH OCTOBER, 2006



Two of the security guards, Marzuki (right) and Sainin with the recovered boat.

Trio steal and strip UMS boat of its engine

By Larry Ralon and Jimmy Goh

KOTA KINABALU: Three suspected armed men broke into the off-shore caged fish rearing place of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) early Tuesday before escaping with one of its two boats.

There were three private security guards on duty at the place, located about two kilometres from the shore behind the UMS, when the incident happened at about 1.30am.

The guards, who were on a 12-hour shift from 8pm, claimed they were in a stilt surau when the three strangers approached in a boat under the cover of the darkness.

As the strangers' boat was about 20metres from the place, the guards heard a voice asking them not to move and stay silent. The guards claimed of seeing the men were holding something like a weapon so they just followed what being told.

Two of the strangers then got onboard the place

and took two of the guards to where the two boats were tied. The two strangers then went onboard one of the boat with a 30-horsepower engine, cut loose the rope and sped away.

The other stranger followed suit later, without injuring any of the guards. The strangers also did not disturb any of the four caged fish, which each have 10 small blocks containing between 380 and 450 fish, including fries.

A marine police patrol boat was sent to the place after the guards informed the city marine police base about it.

City Marine Police Staff Officer, ASP Husaini Zainal Abidin, who confirmed this, said the patrol boat found the stolen boat without its engine left abandoned somewhere in Sepangar Bay at about 5am later.

No arrest was made following the discovery, he said, investigation into the case are still under way.