

Pulau Gaya foreigners held over incidents

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By Larry Ralon

KOTA KINABALU: City marine police believe they have solved a string of robbery cases, including that at the Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) off-shore caged fish rearing centre, with the arrests of three foreigners from Kg Pondo in Pulau Gaya.

Their modus operandi was to have a boat on standby to escape to Pulau Gaya immediately after committing a crime.

The suspects aged between 20 and 25 were nabbed by a team of marine policemen off Sapangar Bay at about 5pm on Friday, based on a public tip-off.

Also found in their boat were a machete (parang) and various tools believed used in committing robbery and theft.

City Marine Police Chief, ASP Husaini said the team also found an engine that matches the one

reported stolen from one of the boats at the caged fish rearing centre from the house of one of the suspects on the island.

Other tools believed used for committing theft were also found in the suspect's house during the 7pm check.

The suspects were also believed linked to similar cases in Sinsuran, Segama and Anjung Senja.

On Oct. 3, three suspected armed men broke into the university's off-shore caged fish rearing place 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 stolen boat was found abandoned in Sepangar Bay not long after that, minus its 30 horsepower engine.