

## 20-MINUTE CHASE

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# 4 fishermen taken into Thailand by sea robbers

**LANGKAWI:** Four Malaysian fishermen are believed to have been spirited away to Thailand by robbers who attacked a fishing boat off Pulau Langgun waters here yesterday.

Police, however, arrested four robbers and prevented seven other fishermen from being taken into Thai waters.

Kedah police chief Datuk Zainal Abidin Kasim said the owner of the Malaysian fishing boat issued a distress call yesterday, saying that robbers were boarding the boats.

Two patrol boats, headed by Inspector Adni Shaari, sped towards the boat's location.

"Police located the robbers at 10.30am on board two long-tailed boats, with the Malaysian

fishermen onboard.

"Realising the police's presence, the Thai suspects tried to speed off," said Zainal Abidin.

"However, they were caught after a 20-minute chase."

Police rescued seven fishermen and arrested four suspects. Three pistols were seized.

However, four Malaysian fishermen, who were on the other boat, were taken into Thai waters.

"Efforts are ongoing to rescue the four," said Zainal Abidin.

"Police have contacted their Thai counterparts to obtain their help with the case."

He said the suspects were taken to the Langkawi marine police base in Bukit Malut be-



*The suspects being taken to the Langkawi marine police base yesterday. PIC COURTESY OF POLICE*

fore they were taken to the Langkawi district police headquarters.

"We are identifying the sus-

pects," he said.

"We are liaising with Thai authorities for more information on the suspects."