

RM40,000 sawn timber seized

KOTA KINABALU: Marine police here made their first sawn timber seizure worth over RM40,000 during Ops Octopus yesterday morning.

The patrol unit, led by Assistant Superintendent Mohd Aris Jambul, intercepted a fishing trawler three nautical miles off Dalit Bay, in Tuaran, about 5.30am.

Upon inspection, the unit found 207 pieces of unrecorded sawn merbau wood timber, believed to be smuggled in from Palawan, southern Philippines, where the boat



Assistant Superintendent Fauzi Ibrahim (centre) and Assistant Superintendent Mohd Aris Jambul (left) onboard the trawler seized during Ops Octopus yesterday.

was registered.

"Nine crew members without identification were arrested," said district base commanding officer Assistant Su-

perintendent Fauzi Ibrahim.

The wood, estimated to fetch about RM200 per piece, were to be sold at the black market here and in Labuan.