

TUGBOATS

62 stranded midsea on Penang ferry

GEORGE TOWN: Pedestrians and motorists were “trapped” mid-sea yesterday when the ferry they were travelling in came to a halt.

At the time of the incident at 11.30am, there were 62 passengers, 27 cars and 49 motorcycles onboard the *Pulau Payar* ferry.

According to a Rapid Ferry spokesman, they were rescued within 18 minutes.

“The *Pulau Payar* ferry came to a halt while ferrying its passengers from Pangkalan Raja Tun Uda to Pangkalan Sultan Abdul Halim at 11.30am.

“Two tugboats were dispatched to tow the ferry to Pangkalan Sultan Abdul Halim,” the spokesman added.

The spokesman said the passengers and vehicles disembarked at Pangkalan Sultan Ab-



The ‘Pulau Payar’ ferry being towed by a tugboat to the Pangkalan Sultan Abdul Halim in Butterworth yesterday. PIC COURTESY OF RAPID FERRY

dul Halim.

“Rapid Ferry Sdn Bhd extends our apology to customers affected by the incident.

“The cause of the incident is being investigated,” the company

said on its Facebook page yesterday.

Prasarana Malaysia Bhd, through its subsidiary Rapid Ferry Sdn Bhd, took over the Penang ferry operations from Penang

Port Commission (PPC) in May.

Prior to that, the ferry services had been handled by Penang Port Sdn Bhd (PPSB) since 1994, following the privatisation of Penang Port.

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