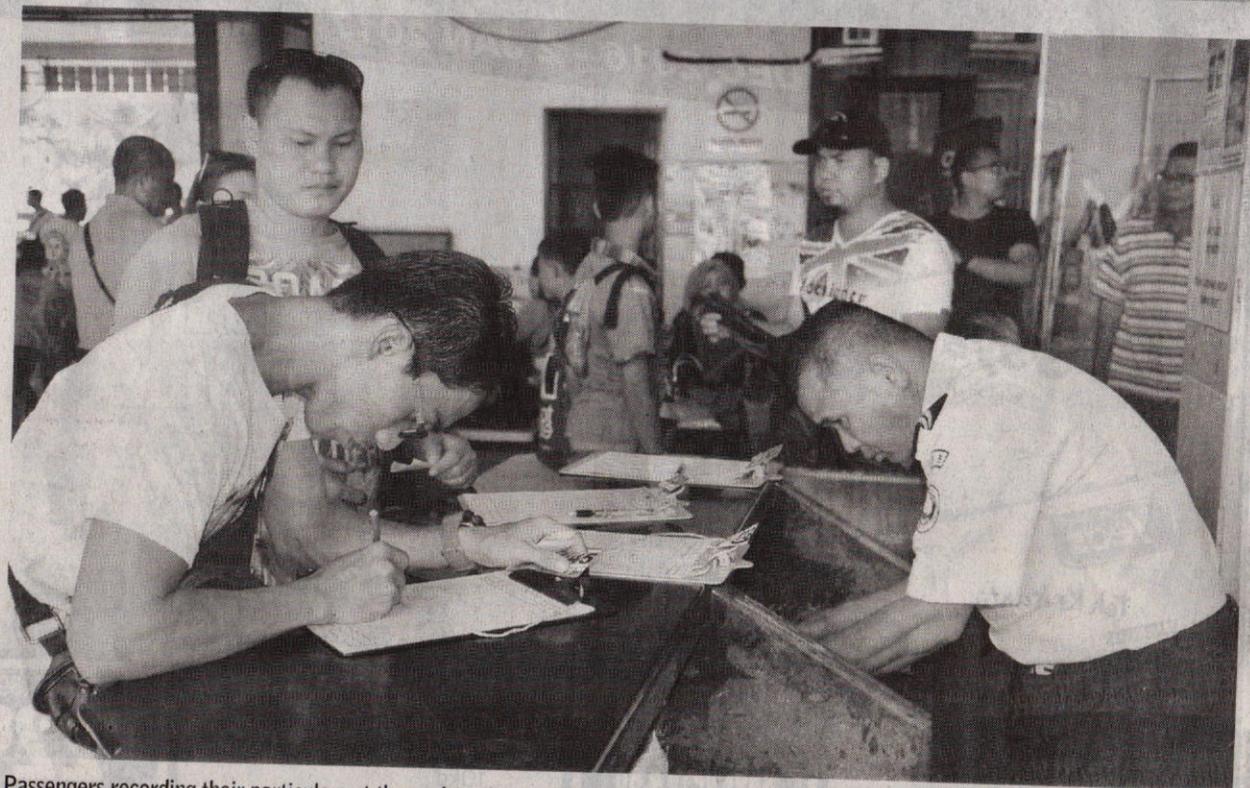




Passengers waiting for their express boats at Sibü Express Boat Terminal.



Passengers recording their particulars at the registration counter at Sibü Express Boat Terminal.

# SRB bracing for reverse tide of holiday crowds

By **Peter Boon**  
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**SIBU:** Sarawak Rivers Board (SRB) is deploying some 70 personnel and 14 patrol boats for the second phase of the statewide operation, starting today.

The operation is mounted in anticipation of big crowds returning for work and children starting their new school term.

SRB Controller William Jinep said the operation which would end on Jan 2 next year, covered Kuching, Sebuyau, Sibü, Sarikei, Bintulu, Baram, Limbang

and Lawas.

"We (SRB) will be assisted by other agencies to ensure safety of passengers. There will checks at the terminals and river blocks mounted at various strategic locations besides river patrol," he told *The Borneo Post* yesterday when asked on preparations for the second phase of operation.

He advised passengers not to rush but to plan their trip well. "Get yourselves registered in our passenger manifest because it is important if anything happens, we will know what is

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William Jinep, SRB Controller

happening. Also, it concerns insurance coverage. Every passenger travelling on a ticket boat is covered by insurance," he explained.

Jinep said the board did not allow passenger boats to travel at

night as a safety measure.

He disclosed that they had a checking station in Peraran – between Belaga and Kapit – where every boat that comes from Kapit or Belaga will need to report to the station to ensure there is no

overloading.

"That is why if you look at the statistics, there are no accidents involving registered passenger boats since 2014. We are already very successful (in) as far as controlling and regulating registered passenger boats."

Jinep pointed out that they would also check on private boats like longboats to ensure the name of the skipper would be noted down, and to ensure passengers had life jackets.

"The challenge we face now is unregistered boats, which are

not covered under our law," he explained.

Even so, the board had worked together with big companies under their corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme to give out life jackets.

He said SRB could not register some of these longboats as they could not meet the standard on safety, he said.

He noted most of the accidents highlighted in the media involved unregistered boats.

Early this month, there were three boat-related incidents in Miri, Song and Bintangor.