

Sungai Serin has economic, tourism potential

PADAWAN: Sungai Serin in Kampung Stabut has significant potential for economic-based activities.

These include river ecotourism and outdoor activities promotion among dwellers and visitors.

As such, a National River Trail (DSK) Programme by the Department of Environment (DOE) Sarawak was held at the village to ensure the sustainability and beauty of Sungai Serin, thus controlling activities that can cause pollution.

The programme, said State DOE director Hamzah Mohammad, is a path-building project along a river, pond, or other water body with the goal of transforming it into a leisure and recreational area.

"Therefore, Sungai Serin has been selected as a suitable river for the DSK programme this year.

"The first frequency of water sampling on June 15 this year found that the Sungai Serin water quality index was 91 and was categorised as clean and in class II.

"The water quality index on August 18 at the second frequency was 93, classified as clean, and in class I.

"I hope that through this DSK programme, we will be able to create shared responsibilities among various parties, especially



OFFICIALS engage in communal activities with the residents in conjunction with the DSK programme at Sungai Stabut.

the residents of Kampung Stabut," he said.

His text of the speech was read by Sarawak DOE senior assistant director Hazel Izzat Mohd Noor when officiating at DSK Postponement Ceremony at Kampung Stabut here yesterday.

On the same note, general manager (Corporate Security) of Sarawak Energy Berhad (SEB)

Shirin Jai Abdul Rashid noted that the village has potential that can be promoted in terms of biodiversity.

"In addition to the DSK programme, we can also explore other opportunities such as the planting of ensurai trees and creating a system for fish conservation.

"For me, environmental

conservation is not only about complying with environmental laws but also about ensuring its sustainability for the benefit of future generations," she said.

SEB as the co-organiser of the programme, intends to take the lead in environmental conservation efforts too, she added.

During the programme, the chief of the Kampung Stabut Saoh Lusek

called for continued cooperation from both parties to make the programme successful up to the desired level.

The local community recently constructed a bamboo hut to serve as a tourist spot for visitors to enjoy recreation activities at the Sungai Stabut.

"It is hoped that the DOE and SEB can help to promote this river trail from now on so that it will later become one of the tourist destinations in Sarawak.

"Apart from promoting this river, the village also requests that the DOE and SEB can help to find funds on our behalf to further improve the infrastructure or public facilities for the visitors.

"This includes public toilets; building a wall for the river banks; planting trees that are suitable for the river banks; street lights; as well as lights along the river for the convenience of residents and visitors," said Saoh.

Other than that, he added, the village security and development committees (JKKK) also had requested to build a riverfront.

In light of this, Saoh continued, it is hoped that the DSK programme will also contribute to the improvement of the locals' socioeconomic status as later foreign tourists visit.