



**THE TRANS-BOUNDARY ACTIVITIES AND THE SECURITY LEVEL ALONG  
THE SARAWAK AND WEST KALIMANTAN BORDER.**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This study is carried out to explain the issues of security level at the border of Tebedu, Sarawak and West Kalimantan. This area is a popular place for trans-border market that existed for many generations. The Tebedu – Entikong crossing was declared and upgraded to an international overland trade-crossing route in 1995. These two countries are separated by a mountainous landmass thus naturally giving it a strategic area to encourage illegal immigration and illegal cross border activities that lead to security threat to Malaysia. This study attempts to seek for the types of illegal activities, the people that involved in the activities, the mode of transportation and the people awareness regarding of these activities. The outcome of this study may also be an information source to the public in term current issues on the local border trade area and the safety level of such areas.

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Even though Sarawak in Malaysia and West Kalimantan in Indonesia share a long land borderline of 1,480 km, there was no clear official demarcations line in the border area until quite recently.

Traditionally, people living along the border between the states of Sarawak, Malaysia and West Kalimantan, province of Indonesia used three major inland routes and one sea route to ferry people, material and goods across. Beginning from the easternmost settlement moving westward toward the South China Sea is Lubok Antu-Badau, Serikin-Jagoi Babang and Tebedu-Entikong crossings. The sea route starts from Paloh going north.

As we look back to the history of the trans-boundary between Sarawak and west Kalimantan in Indonesia, where Sarawak was colonized by Rajah Brooke from Britain and Indonesia was colonized by the Dutch. The history of migration or the history of interaction between migrants and the local people west Kalimantan has become a transit place of various ethnic groups throughout Indonesia. When the Dutch occupied Indonesia, their main objective was to take and use raw sources of Indonesian land unlike the British, they initially made Malaysia including Sarawak and Sabah the modernized by using all the sources of raw material to develop the Malaysia. The migration of people in West Kalimantan to Sarawak, and the people from Sarawak to West Kalimantan made existence to the sharing of land border which they used the main inland routes and sea routes to ferry people across.

## **2.0 Literature Review**

This research's objectives and hypothesis derive from three main bodies of research literature:

1. security issues
2. verify activities
3. the effect of activities

### **2.1 Security Issues**

In order to know about the real problem of security level along the borderline, the historical perspectives must be referred. According to Riwanto Tirtusadarmo, West Kalimantan has a direct contact with a foreign country. The human trafficking by both sides had happened from generations through generations. The main activities are trading, visiting relatives or social visits. However, he added, this free for all trans-border movement has created much complication especially in term of security. The officials need the right information of the traffic of movement to keep the record for security purposes. There might be bad intention by the people involved that will give threat to the security of our country.