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# Rafting Challenge 2014 calling for entries

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Stanley Sila, Serian District Council's Youth, Cultural and Sports Committee chairman

## Lim How Pim

**SERIAN:** Rafting Challenge 2014 aims to attract 80 teams, which is 20 per cent more than last year's figure.

This year's edition will be a 25-km challenge from Kampung Tema Mawang in Tebedu to Tebakang Bazaar on May 10.

Serian District Council's Youth, Cultural and Sports Committee chairman Stanley Sila said there were 66 teams in Rafting Challenge 2013.

"We have been getting between 50 and 60 teams from the same group of people for the last three years. This time around, we want to see more tourists. We have also extended invitations to several institutions of higher learning.

"Brochures and pamphlets on Rafting Challenge 2014 have been distributed to hotels to attract more participants. So far, we have 20 to 30 teams registered with us and we expect more to come two weeks before the event," he told reporters at the District Office here yesterday.

Stanley was representing Serian District Officer Sinda Muling at the press conference.

Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Universiti Teknologi Mara Sarawak, Swinburne University Sarawak, Segi College and UCSI

Sarawak had been invited to compete this year.

Stanley hoped the Youth wings of various political parties would also send a team each to spice up the challenge.

"Rafting is a very popular activity amongst the locals and Rafting Challenge (which made its debut in 2011) has been made an annual event on the state's tourism calendar.

"It is to attract both local and foreign tourists so as to promote Serian and Samarahan as a tourist destination. Through Rafting Challenge, we hope to instil a sense of co-operation among the people, especially the youths, in line with the 1Malaysia concept."

Besides the event proper, he said exhibitions, food fair, karaoke competition and seminar would also be lined up for participants and the local community.

"The exhibitors include Federal Agriculture and Marketing Authority (Fama), Department of Agriculture and Community Development Department (Kemas).

"Saberkas Tebakang branch together with Social Development Ministry will organise a karaoke competition. Sarawak Rivers Board will hold a seminar on

river safety."

Organised by Serian District Office and Divisional Tourism Task Group, Rafting Challenge 2014 is divided into four

categories: men open, women open, government departments, and hotel and tour agencies.

The champions for all categories will each bring home RM1,500, while first runners-up and second runners-up will each be RM1,200 and RM900 richer respectively. The organisers have also prepared RM250 each for contenders finishing between fourth and tenth places. All these winners are also to be given a trophy each.

All participants will be insured and presented with a certificate of participation. They must be 18 years and above. Each team of four persons has to pay a participation fee of RM100. Registration closes on May 2.

Forms are available on Serian District Office's website [www.seriandc.sarawak.gov.my](http://www.seriandc.sarawak.gov.my). Alternatively, those keen to participate can visit Serian District Office at No.1, Jalan Bunga, Tanjung, Serian.

For more information, call 082-875153/874154/874155 or email [mdserian@sarawak.gov.my](mailto:mdserian@sarawak.gov.my).

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