

Man claims trial to charge of human trafficking

SIBU: A 31-year-old man claimed trial at the Sessions Court here yesterday to a charge of trafficking a 36-year-old man.

The accused pleaded not guilty when the charge was read to him through an interpreter before Judge Musyiri Peet.

He was charged under Section 12 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants Act 2007, which carries a jail term of up to 20 years and a fine upon conviction.

According to the charge sheet, the accused allegedly trafficked the victim by abusing the latter's position of vulnerability between Oct 5 and Nov 3 at Mile 2 ½, Jalan Durin-Kanowit in Kanowit district.

The court allowed the accused to be released on RM30,000 bail under two local sureties.

The court also ordered him to surrender his passport to the authorities until the disposal of the case and to report himself to

the nearest police station once a month.

The accused was further ordered not to tamper with prosecution witnesses, particularly the victim.

Pre-trial case management has been fixed for Jan 7 next year.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Muhammad Afiq Safly Norkazly appeared for the prosecution, while the accused was represented by defence counsel Terence Tiong.