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Eligible Malaysians urged to sign up for Padu

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The Central Database Hub (Padu) is aimed at distributing aid and subsidies to the targeted groups effectively. Malaysians are encouraged to register before March 31 and experts say their data security is paramount. > See reports on pages 2, 3 and 7 by MAZWIN NIK ANIS, RADANANTHINI VETHASALAM, ZAKIAH KOTYA, ALLISON LAI and FATIMAH ZAINAL.



Photo by Mazwin Nik Anis, Radanantthini Vethasalam, Zakiah Kotya, Allison Lai and Fatimah Zainal.

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It's a game-changer

PM: Padu central database will transform subsidy distribution

PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said that the newly developed Central Database Hub (Padu) will not just ensure the distribution of aid and subsidies to the targeted groups, it will also stop leakage as it is government assistance, says the Prime Minister.

Padu has Answer Database will with Padu in place, those who are not eligible — the 35 million Malaysians, the wealthy and those in the high-income group — would not be receiving aid as the system would be able to identify them.

While the government has spent a "significant amount of money" to help the poor and those in need of assistance, there were leakage and they were "leaking", he added.

He said the introduction of Padu is also in line with the country's digital transformation approach, meaning that every government service will be enjoyed by deserving citizens.

The government has spent RM500 in various subsidies and yet, there are still people who are poor and in need.

"There is something wrong somewhere," he said at the launch of Padu yesterday.

The Prime Minister said the government needs to work on improving the distribution of assistance and would no longer depend on the current structure.

He also said subsidy rationalisation cannot be conducted effectively without Padu and digital transformation.

"It is impossible for Malaysia to sustain managing the country's finances if we cannot improve the structure.

"This is one reason why Padu was created. We need to ensure that those eligible will continue to benefit from government aid and assistance," he added.

Padu, which contains profiles of individuals and households, is an integrated socio-economic database that combines data from government departments and agencies to provide a more comprehensive view of each household in Malaysia.

It aims to provide a safe, comprehensive and near real-time



All systems go: Anwar launches Padu at front-left chief celebration Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Ujan Mubidin, Digital Minister Gobind Singh Deo, Ahmad Zahid, Education Affairs Minister Fathia Ramli and Economic Affairs ministry's secretary-general Datuk Nur Azaria Unai look on in Putrajaya. — DA, A. FADAL, MOHAMMAD THE STAR

national credit database that enables more accurate data analysis to be performed as well as for policy formulation and decision-making processes.

Anwar said Padu is safety built by civil servants and he commended them for their ability to set up a central database.

"Their skills, knowledge and expertise have enabled the government to have this moment in place, without having to engage the services of international consultants, where from the project would have to leak," he said.

"This has saved cost, and the money can be channelled to other purposes."

Saying he is impressed by civil servants' performance, the Prime Minister stressed that the implementation of their new salary scheme will be expedited, but he said that could not be implemented last year as the country's financial situation did not allow for it.

On July 14, the government agreed to revise the civil servant salary scheme, taking into account the increase in the cost of living

and the fact that there has been no salary review since 2012.

Following that, a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Public Service Reform was held on Aug 7 last year to discuss the Public Service Reorganisation System (PSRS) as a civil service reform initiative.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister Tanak Sri Khairul Zabih Haniff said that with Padu, the disbursement of subsidies could be done in a targeted manner and only those who are eligible will enjoy it.

"The point of that is not an investment, it is still low due to the subsidies that are being enjoyed by all including foreigners.

"I believe it has to be implemented immediately so that we can recognise some savings and the funds can be spent on development," he said.

Communications Minister Fahmi Fakhri described Padu as a "game changer for data management" in Malaysia.

He said if a person wants to deal with three public sector institutions, they might end up having

to fill up many different documents with sets of supporting information, because repeated.

"Not now, with Padu, all data is under one roof, so the public no longer needs to fill in data repeatedly," he posted on Facebook, adding that currently there are 455 public sector institutions in the country, including 70 ministries, departments and agencies, 15 state governments, 13 federal statutory bodies and 155 local authorities.

He also shared his willingness to sign up for Padu and urged the public to do the same at the <http://www.padu.gov.my/uk>.

Registration is open to the public from now until March 31, and users can update and confirm 30 personal details, including identification numbers, members of household members and their addresses.