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Reach out to rural, bulnerable groups

'Reach out to rural, vulnerable groups'

KUALA LUMPUR: Consumer groups have endorsed the government's new Central Database Hub (Padu) for its myriad benefits, streamlining subsidy distribution and providing targeted support for citizens.

Federation of Malaysian Consumers Associations (Fomca) chief executive officer T. Saravanan urged the public to update their data in Padu as it could help vulnerable individuals improve their lives and help the government streamline data and eliminate leakages.

"The data from the Inland Revenue Board, Social Security Organisation, Employees Provident Fund and so on are already there.

"Based on that data, they know the income you earn and it will be analysed. Based on the analysis, they will come up with the type of subsidy you need or whether you need it at all."

He said there was a need for outreach programmes to help rural folk update their information in the Padu system.

"To access Padu, you need connectivity, Internet access and gadgets.

"But what about vulnerable groups, like the elderly, who don't have Internet access or gadgets to update their information?"

"Programmes must be held in rural areas so that people, particularly the vulnerable groups, can access the system."

He hoped that the programme would not be discontinued in a few years as it should be a



Civil servants updating their information on the Central Database Hub after its launch in Putrajaya yesterday.

permanent system.

"Malaysians do not want to see the government saying one day that Padu is not useful and was a waste of resources to build.

"As a country progresses, it is crucial to maintain programmes with a more focused approach.

"We would like to see a more targeted approach so that those who are really vulnerable get the subsidy or support from the government."

Saravanan urged the government to focus on educating people who are against Padu by emphasising its targeted approach.

He said the latest data that the system gathered would allow the government to channel aid and subsidies more effectively to

those who truly need them.

Consumers Association of Penang president Mohideen Abdul Kadeer said Padu would filter out individuals who were ineligible for targeted subsidies as the system would have a more precise representation of the annual incomes of families.

He said with the consolidation of data from various sources, each family could be better profiled for fairer distribution of targeted subsidies.

But glitches should be anticipated in the implementation of the system, he said.

"We cannot eliminate the possibility of glitches in the implementation, but the plan has to start somewhere and problems

have to be addressed.

"Our concerns revolve around reaching the poor and those in isolated areas without Internet or media access or those who access bank accounts only via conventional means because they are the most vulnerable.

"These groups may not even be part of the statistics as they may not have a bank account or a proper job."

Page 1 pic: (From left) P. Pathmanathan, Shaza Nur Bani Md Sharif, Nurul Atikah Abu Bakar and Tan Fee Cheng updating their data in the Central Database Hub after the system's launch in Putrajaya yesterday.