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## Final push for PADU REGISTRATION

MARCH 31 DEADLINE

# FINAL PUSH FOR PADU REGISTRATION

300 extra counters set up nationwide in anticipation of last-minute rush

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**T**HE final push to get people to register with the Central Database Hub (Padu) is underway, with an additional 300 counters set up nationwide.

With only three days left until the deadline on Sunday, the Department of Statistics is anticipating a surge in registrations.

Chief Statistician Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin told Bernama that the department had decided to add to the 6,000 registration counters as it expected a last-minute rush by people to sign up.

He said these 6,000 counters had been set up in collaboration

with agencies, including the Information Department, local authorities and non-governmental organisations and by using 900 National Information Dissemination Centres (Nadi) to anticipate large crowds on Sunday.

"On the final day, the physical counters will only issue numbers until 5pm because we know people will still come after that if there is no cut-off time.

"However, online registration is open till 11.59pm on Sunday." He said this after inspecting operations at the Padu counter at the Melaka Urban Transformation Centre (UTC) yesterday.

Uzir said there was a need to add more counters because older people were more satisfied when they filled up their information in front of officers instead of having to furnish them on the portal.

"As for youngsters, we do not see them at physical counters because they can surf the portal and update the information themselves.

"On average, there are more than 350,000 people who update their information daily via the platform or by going to the coun-



Chief Statistician Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin inspecting operations at the Padu counter at the Melaka Urban Transformation Centre yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

ters," said Uzir.

Up to yesterday, 8.79 million people had signed up and based on the surge in registrations the past week, the target of 50 per cent registration rate can be achieved by March 31. This means that less than 30 per cent of the population have signed up.

"We thank Malaysians who have updated their information on Padu," the Economy Ministry posted on Facebook.

On Wednesday, the ministry had reminded the public to be wary of any party offering paid services to register.

It said registering and updating information on Padu were free.

The ministry will also address concerns raised by the Sarawak government, which has postponed registrations in the state.

Sarawak Premier Tan Sri Abang Johari Abang Openg said yesterday he would meet Economy Minister Rafizi Ramli and his team next week to address these and other concerns.

He said the state government had referred to the Personal Data Protection Act 2010, which sets limits on disclosure of personal information, which is in line with Article 5(1) of the federal constitution.

However, Abang Johari said Sarawakians had been filling out forms for Padu at resident offices, district offices and via village chiefs, and the state had assisted in distributing the information required by the ministry.

He said that despite directing the postponement of Padu registrations, the state government

supported the goals of the federal government's initiative in targeted aid and subsidy distribution.

Registration can be done through <http://padu.gov.my> and if physical counter assistance is needed, contact the Department of Statistics Malaysia offices in the states. Information on state department offices can be found at <https://dosm.gov.my/portal-main/directory/>.

Padu ensures that the people receive benefits such as assistance or protection (if eligible) from government initiatives. **Additional reporting by Luqman Hakim**

Page 1 caption: People registering for the Central Database Hub (Padu) in Shah Alam on March 23.