

Number of **people** using e-banking up 18% a month

THE number of people opting for e-banking or using the Internet to perform banking transactions is increasing at 18% per month, said Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Chan Kong Choy.

He told Senator Datuk Long Jidin that as of June, a total of 324,018 individuals had registered with various banks to use Internet banking.

"The most popular transaction is checking the status of bank accounts, which accounted for 80% of all transactions," he said.

Others were for payment of bills (15%) and transfer of money (5%).

With the high level of security measures, the ministry had not received any report about cheating on bank accounts using Internet banking, he said.

To another question, Chan told Senator Datuk Abdul Aziz Abdul Rahman that as of March, the country's debt stood at RM155.4bil.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Election Commission's computer system would reject a person's application to be a voter if his identity card number was not listed with the National Registration Department.

In a written reply to Nosi-

mah Hashim, he said the commission had started online registration based on the department's records.

He said the commission had always worked hard to solve the phantom voters problem.

Since last year, he said the commission had conducted a thorough check with the department on the validity of registered voters.

The names of voters whose nationality status was in doubt would be struck off from the electoral rolls, he said.

"Such action would check the problem of phantom voters," said Dr Mahathir.