

M'sia's population to peak at 42.38m by 2059

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Malaysia's population is expected to reach its highest point of 42.38 million in 2059, before gradually declining to 42.37 million in 2060, 42.08 million in 2065 and 41.43 million by 2070, according to the Department of Statistics Malaysia.

In a statement today, chief statistician Uzir Mahidin said that although the population will grow steadily from 2020 to 2059, the growth rate will sharply slow down from 1.7 percent in 2020 to just 0.1 percent by 2060.

He highlighted that the populations of Kelantan, Pahang, Perak, Terengganu and Putrajaya are projected to increase continuously up to 2060.

Selangor is expected to remain the most populous state with 8.10 million residents by 2060, followed by Johor (4.99 million) and Sabah (4.89 million).

The population projections, covering the period from 2020 to 2060, were published today in conjunction with World Population Day 2025. The report presents detailed demographic changes using 2020 as the baseline.

Decline in Chinese, Indian population

Uzir noted that nine areas are projected to reach their population peaks before the national peak in 2059. These include Kuala Lumpur (2031), Penang (2040), Labuan (2041), Selangor (2049), Johor and Kedah (2052), Negeri Sembilan (2054 - as well as Perlis and Sarawak (2055).

Ethnic composition is also expected to shift, with the bumiputera population increasing by 10.2 percentage points, from 69.4 percent in 2020 to 79.4 percent in 2060.

Meanwhile, the Chinese and Indian populations are projected to decline to 14.8 percent (from 23.2 percent in 2020) and 4.7 percent (from 6.7 percent), respectively.

Both male and female populations are projected to grow steadily, with males consistently outnumbering females. The sex ratio is expected to rise from 110 males per 100 females in 2020 to 114 males per 100 females by 2060, Uzir added.

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