

'PADU TO PLUG LEAKS IN CHANNELLING AID'

PM urges Malaysians to update their data to ensure they don't miss out on aid, vows security of system

S. BIRRUNTHA
PUTRAJAYA
news@nst.com.my

THE new Central Database Hub (Padu) will ensure there are no leakages in the distribution of aid.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who launched the database yesterday, said Malaysians would play a crucial role in ensuring that aid does not go to those who do not need it.

He said Malaysians must register and update their household information to ensure they do not miss out on aid.

He said Padu, which combines data from various government agencies, was one of the outcomes of the Madani government's new approach, demonstrating the agile implementation and collective efforts of the whole government.

"The idea of developing Padu was discussed during the National Economic Action Council meeting on May 15, 2023, with an emphasis on phased implementation to ensure a smooth and

integrated system.

"Today marks the initial pioneering steps. However, the journey ahead is still far.

"The development and audit processes will continue to enhance the quality of this initial product," he said yesterday.

The aim of Padu is to provide a comprehensive and integrated database of profiles of the population, he said.

"This data sharing encompasses Padu merging information on income, demographics and assistance received by the population.

"By building holistic profiles for each individual, it enables data analysis and aids in formulating more precise policies to meet the people's needs."

He said comprehensive data sources like Padu and databases like the ones for the Rahmah Cash Aid and e-Madani initiatives were instrumental in implementing subsidy reforms.

"The methodology for this will be communicated at an appropriate time, following discussions with all stakeholders.

"The wellbeing of the people will never be neglected."

With the comprehensive, accurate and up-to-date data in Padu, he said, the government would be able to boost the assistance system and ensure all eligible individuals receive aid.

He said Padu would minimise wastage by reducing the number of ineligible people who get aid.

"It can minimise inclusion and exclusion errors. Padu is a crucial element in the government's strategy for targeted subsidy implementation."

When developing Padu, Anwar said, system security and preventing information leaks were top priorities.

He said to ensure secure data handling, cybersecurity aspects, including system security and personal information protection, received special attention.

"Economy Minister Rafizi Ramli has made the best effort to ensure that there are no data leaks originating from Padu."

Rafizi said Padu's implementation was expected to cut the country's fiscal deficit to between three and 3.5 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) by 2025. The fiscal deficit for 2023 is expected to be five per cent of GDP.

He said Padu includes individual profiles that contain basic demographic information, address, education, household composition, employment, income, commitments and received aid.

He said Padu would provide a more accurate measurement of the socio-economic status of the people based on net disposable income, preventing misallocation.

"This measurement method takes into account the number of dependents, household size, cost of living based on location,