

**Close To 6,000 Residents At Old Folks Homes, Dewan Rakyat Told
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 15 (Bernama) -- Close to 6,000 elderly people are residents at the 11 government-run and 165 NGO- and privately-operated old folks homes in the country, the Dewan Rakyat was told today.

Deputy Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Heng Saei Kie said 1,927 of them were housed at the Welfare Department's old folks homes while 4,059 were accommodated at the NGO- and privately-run care centres.

Nine of the Welfare Department homes were for those who could take care of themselves and two for those who required special attention or intensive care, she said when replying to a question from Datuk Mohd Jidin Shafee (BN-Setiu).

Heng said RM26.79 million and RM5.82 million were allocated last year for these two types of home, respectively. She also said that RM7.4 million was allocated for NGO and privately-run care centres while RMRM733,260 was allocated for the 22 senior citizen activity centres run by NGOs.

The Welfare Department also undertook various initiatives to encourage bonding between the elderly people and their families, she said, adding that these included frequent visits by family members, holidays with family members, relocation of the residents nearer to their family homes and tracing family members of the residents.

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