
Malaysian population estimated at 34.4 million

PUTRAJAYA: The total population of Malaysia was estimated at 34.4 million in the first quarter of this year (1Q26) compared with 34.2 million in the same period last year, with a slower growth of 0.5%, according to the demographic statistics for 1Q 2026 released by the Statistics Department yesterday.

Chief Statistician Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said the male population increased to 18 million from 17.9 million in 1Q26, and the female population rose to 16.3 million from 16.2 million in the same period a year ago.

"The sex ratio was 110 males for every 100 females. The composition of the old age population (65 years and over) increased from 7.9% to 8%.

"The young age population (1-14 years) recorded a decrease from 21.8% to 21.6%. The working age population (15-64 years) increased from 70.3% to 70.4% during the same period," he said in a statement yesterday.

By ethnicity, Malays accounted for 58.3% of the population in 1Q26 compared with 58.2% in 1Q25.

The proportion of "Other Bumiputera" (Sabah, Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia) and Indians remained unchanged at 12.3% and 6.5% respectively, while Chinese decreased to 22.1% from 22.2% in the corresponding quarter of 2025.

Mohd Uzir said the number of live births declined to 94,807 births from 97,843 in 1Q25, with male babies (49,137) outnumbering female babies (45,670).

He said Selangor recorded the highest live births (17,990) while Labuan recorded the lowest (294).

He added that 49,139 deaths were recorded in 1Q26, a decrease of 1.5% from 49,863 in 1Q25, with Selangor having the highest number (8,042) while Putrajaya recorded the lowest (81).

Population aged 60 years and over recorded the highest number of deaths (71.5%), followed by 41-59 years (19.9%), 15-40 years (6.8%) and 1-14 years (1.8%). – Bernama
