

# Statistics Dept restructuring to provide detailed info

**LAHAD DATU:** Restructuring of the Statistics Department is aimed at providing comprehensive information to clients, says Chief Statistician of Malaysia Wan Ramlah Wan Abdul Raof.

She said the restructuring exercise, which began last year, entailed increasing staff, creating new divisions and opening more offices nationwide to provide data to clients.

"The restructuring is to revamp the department to suit clients' needs as currently they need a lot of data and information.

"Although we have the micro information, clients want more detailed data and information. That's why we need to look into their requirements," she told reporters after opening the Statistics Department branch office here yesterday.

The Lahad Datu office is the fifth in Sabah. The other four are in Tawau, Sandakan, Keningau and Kota Marudu.

Wan Ramlah said data gathering needs to take into account growing number of companies, population increase and sprouting of new housing schemes following the country's economic growth.

She said the Department released the data under the guidelines and standards set by the United Nations.

"Clients need not doubt the data we release as we are internationally comparable around the world," she said.

For instance, she said, the Department used the guide,



Chief Statistician of Malaysia, Wan Ramlah Wan Abdul Raof (right) with Statistics Department Sabah Director Norezan Wahid (left) looking at the book exhibits after the official opening of the Statistics Department branch office in Lahad Datu yesterday. - Bernama photo

definition and concept adopted by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in issuing data on investments in Malaysia while data collation on labour was based on the concept and definition of the Geneva-headquartered International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Data published by the Statistics Department was on par with that released by advanced nations like Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

"We benchmark our performance as against them and once we benchmark with them, we are almost at par with them," she said.

She said the Department has about 3,300 permanent staff who are assisted by about 2,000 temporary employees, especially in

the field work.

Earlier, in her speech, Wan Ramlah said opening of the Lahad Datu office was timely in tandem with the implementation of the Sabah Development Corridor (SDC) which encompasses Lahad Datu as the Palm Oil Industrial Cluster (POIC).

She said the SDC will open up vast opportunities for foreign investments in the agriculture and manufacturing sectors, research and high-end jobs which will pave the way for higher living standard and socio-economic status in the district.

"Hence, I believe it's crucial for the Statistics Department to gather the high-value data for planning and economic development of this district in particular and Sabah in general," she added. - Bernama