

DoSM: Miri an 'ageing' district; Lubok Antu, Sri Aman and Song have highest elderly population

PUTRAJAYA: Miri in Sarawak is among eight districts in Malaysia now categorised as 'ageing' because more than seven per cent of their population are aged 65 and above this year.

This is according to the Current Population Estimates, Administrative Districts released by the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DoSM) yesterday.

The other seven districts are Johor Bahru, Johor; Kota Bharu and Kuala Krai in Kelantan; Seberang Perai Utara and Barat Daya (Penang); Kota Kinabalu (Sabah); and Ulu Selangor (Selangor).

DoSM in a statement said the findings also showed that Lubok Antu, Sri Aman and Song – all in Sarawak – have the highest elderly population (65 years and over) at 14.4 per cent, 12.8 per cent and 11.9 per cent, respectively.

The United Nations has defined three categories of ageing, namely an ageing society, an aged society, and a super-aged society, which refers to the population aged 65 years and over reaching seven per cent, 14 per cent and 20 per cent, respectively.

The National Senior Citizens Policy states that ageing is when the population of 60

years old and over comprises 15 per cent of the total population.

According to DoSM, Kalabakan in Sabah recorded the highest population growth rate at 13.4 per cent, followed by Semporna, Sabah (11.7 per cent) and Kunak, Sabah (11.5 per cent).

Meanwhile, Bukit Mabong in Sarawak recorded the lowest population at 10,400, followed by Song (10,000) and Tanjung Manis, Sarawak (7,900).

Three districts in Sarawak recorded the highest citizen population in 2023: Julau (99.9 per cent), followed by Song and Pakan (both 99.7 per cent); while Sabah had the largest percentage of non-citizens in Kinabatangan (70.6 per cent), followed by Kalabakan (66.5 per cent) and Kunak (53.2 per cent).

The DoSM said the findings also found that females outnumbered males in 13 districts – Muallim, Perak with a sex ratio of 92 males for every 100 females; followed by Samarahan, Sarawak (94); Bachok, Kelantan (94); Song (95); Saratok, Sarawak (97); Kubang Pasu, Kedah (97); Julau (98); Tumpat and Pasir Puteh, Kelantan (both 98); Kuala Nerus, Terengganu (99); Kanowit, Sarawak (99); Machang, Kelantan (99); and Kota Setar, Kedah (99).

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