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MEDIA STATEMENT

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PERSON WITH DISABILITY STATISTICS, MALAYSIA, 2023

174,916 elderly were registered as PWD out of 736,607 registered PWD until 2023, an increase of 13.1 per cent

PUTRAJAYA, 12th December 2024 – Today, the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) published the **Person with Disability Statistics, Malaysia, 2023** that presents data related to persons with disabilities (PWD) in Malaysia. This publication presents seven areas, namely population, health, education, employment, income and expenditure, welfare services and sports. Statistics on sports are new statistics included in the publication for this year. The availability of PWD statistics can be used as an input in improving the planning and formulation of policies in relation to PWDs by the government and other stakeholders.

Chief Statistician Malaysia, Dato' Sri Dr. Haji Mohd Uzir Mahidin said, "In order to obtain the information or data about PWD, several methods can be applied, namely through census, survey and administrative data. The World Health Organization (WHO) has estimated that a total of 1.3 billion people experienced significant disabilities, which was 16.0 per cent of the world's population. The percentage of registered PWD in Malaysia until 2023 was 2.2 per cent, which was lower than the WHO estimates globally".

The main findings in terms of **population** showed the cumulative number of registered PWD at the Department of Social Welfare as at 2023 was 736,607 persons or 2.2 per cent of the Malaysia's population. The learning disability category recorded the

highest registration at 265,503 persons. This was followed by those who are physically disabled (265,221 persons) and visually impaired (63,779 persons) categories. The speech category recorded the lowest registration of 3,846 persons. A total of 174,916 elderly were registered as PWD out of 736,607 registered PWD until 2023, which is an increase of 13.1 per cent as compared to the previous year.

Sports statistics involving PWD showed the number of disabled athletes increased by 18.3 per cent in 2023 to 71 persons as compared to 60 persons in 2022. The majority of the athletes were 58 males as compared to 13 females. In terms of type of sport, athletic recorded the highest number of athletes with 30 persons. This was followed by swimming (10 persons) and boccia (9 persons). At the 2024 Paralympic Games held in Paris, France, two Malaysian athletes have successfully secured gold medals in men's singles badminton and powerlifting events. In addition, Malaysian athletes have also earned two silver medals and one bronze medal.

In the **health** sector, the number of PWD receiving health treatment in 2023 increased by 15.5 per cent to 4,551 persons as compared to 3,940 persons in 2022. PWD with learning disability recorded the highest number of persons who received health treatment at 85.9 per cent. This was followed by physical (8.6%) and speech (2.8%) categories. The Ministry of Health Malaysia (MoH) recorded a total of 831 infants aged less than one year who were diagnosed as having disability in 2023. Meanwhile, 1,453 children aged 18 months were suspected of having autism in the same year.

Findings in the **education** field showed that the number of special education schools recorded in 2023 was 34 schools consisting of 28 primary schools and six secondary schools. The number of special education school teachers at the primary level in 2023 decreased by 1.0 per cent to 826 teachers. Meanwhile, the number of special education school teachers at the secondary level increased by 2.4 per cent to 473 teachers in the same period. The number of special education school pupils at the primary and secondary levels also recorded an increase in 2023 at 17.5 per cent and 0.9 per cent respectively to 1,736 pupils and 1,055 pupils.

As for **employment**, there were 3,856 civil servants with disabilities serving in 2023, an increase of 3.5 per cent as compared to 3,724 persons in 2022. The physical category

recorded the highest percentage of 65.2 per cent in 2023, followed by the visually impaired (20.4%) and hearing (8.7%) categories. Based on the services group, the majority of civil servants with disabilities (66.3%) were under the support group. This was followed by management & professionals (33.5%) and top management (0.2%) groups.

As for **welfare services**, there are three main institutions for PWD in Malaysia, namely Taman Sinar Harapan, Bengkel Daya and Industrial Training and Rehabilitation Centre. Taman Sinar Harapan is an institution under JKM that provides care, protection and rehabilitation to PWD with learning disabilities category. Meanwhile, Bengkel Daya is a Protected Workshop under JKM that specialised for PWD who are not competitive to get a job in the open market. Besides that, the Industrial Training and Rehabilitation Centre was established by the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development (KPWKM) to empower the PWD by providing vocational training as preparation for entering the job market.

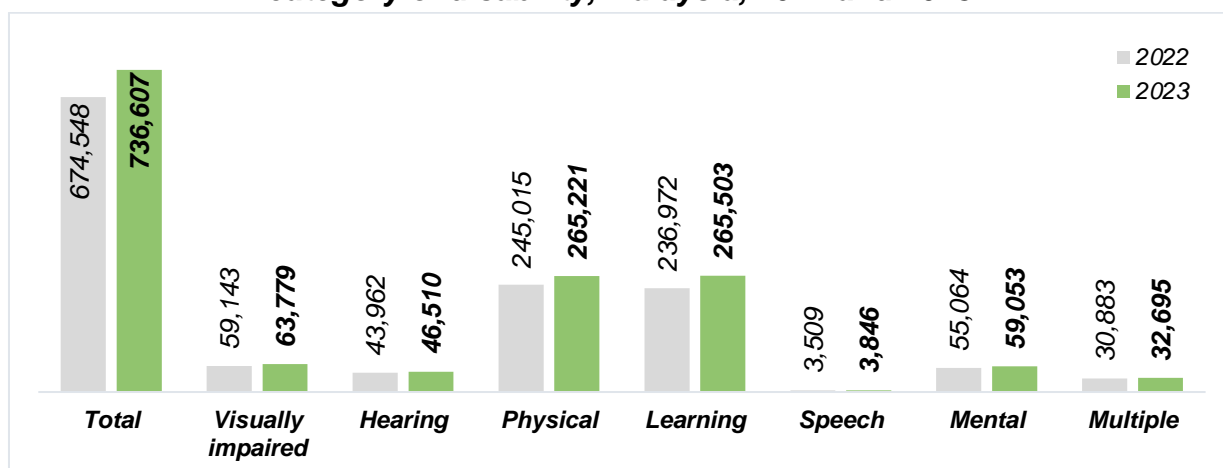
A total of 761 PWD resided in Taman Sinar Harapan in 2023 and 96 PWD were registered as trainees at Bengkel Daya in the same year. Meanwhile, the Industrial Training and Rehabilitation Center received a total of 11 PWD trainees in 2023 for various training schemes.

Person with Disability Statistics, Malaysia, 2023 can be downloaded for free on the Department of Statistics, Malaysia portal (www.dosm.gov.my).

The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) has launched OpenDOSM NextGen as a medium that provides data catalogue and visualisations to facilitate users' analysis and can be accessed through <https://open.dosm.gov.my>.

The Government of Malaysia has declared National Statistics Day (MyStats Day) on 20th October. MyStats Day theme is “Statistics is the Essence of Life”. DOSM commemorates its 75th Diamond Jubilee in 2024.

Chart 1: Cumulative number of registered persons with disabilities (PWD) by category of disability, Malaysia, 2022 and 2023



Note:

Refers to the registration record at Department of Welfare


Source: Department of Welfare

Table 1: Number of PWD receiving health treatment by category of disability, Malaysia, 2022 and 2023

Category of disability	2022	2023	Percentage change (%)	Percentage share 2023 (%)
Total	3,940	4,551	15.5	100.0
Visually impaired	37	36	-2.7	0.8
Hearing	59	69	16.9	1.5
Physical	430	392	-8.8	8.6
Learning	3,202	3,910	22.1	85.9
Speech	204	129	-36.8	2.8
Mental	8	15	87.5	0.3
Multiple	-	-	-	-

Source: Ministry of Health Malaysia

Table 2: The number of schools, teachers and pupils in government & government-aided special education schools, Malaysia, 2022 and 2023



	Primary school			Secondary school		
	2022	2023	Percentage change (%)	2022	2023	Percentage change (%)
School	28	28	0.0	6	6	0.0
Teacher	834	826	-1.0	462	473	2.4
Pupil	1,477	1,736	17.5	1,046	1,055	0.9

Source: Ministry of Education Malaysia

Note:

Refers to primary and secondary government and government-aided schools

Table 3: Number of PWD civil servants by category of disability, Malaysia, 2022 and 2023

Category of disability	2022	2023	Percentage change (%)	Percentage share 2023 (%)
Total	3,724	3,856	3.5	100.0
Visually impaired	795	785	-1.3	20.4
Hearing	331	336	1.5	8.7
Physical	2,551	2,514	-1.5	65.2
Learning	99	109	10.1	2.8
Speech	34	34	-	0.9
Mental	34	45	32.4	1.2
Multiple	56	54	-3.6	1.4

Source: Department of Public Services

Table 4: Number of disabled athlete by sex, Malaysia, 2022 and 2023

Sex	2022	2023	Percentage change (%)
Total	60	71	18.3
Male	51	58	13.7
Female	9	13	44.4

Source: National Sports Council of Malaysia

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