



Mohd Naroden (front, centre) in a photo call with officials and participants of the 'Jum Regista Bisnes Sarawakku Sayang' programme.

# '58 pct of micro businesses in Sarawak unregistered'

**KUCHING:** More than half of traders and businesses under the micro category in Sarawak do not have licence or permit to operate, said Assistant Minister of International Trade and Industry, Industrial Terminal and Entrepreneur Development Datuk Mohd Naroden Majais.

He said this was based on data received from local councils which shows a total of 44,015 traders and small businesses under this category.

"Out of this total, around 25,663 or 58 per cent have yet to register, meaning they do not possess licence or permit even though their business is done from home, at markets and roadsides. This total is huge.

"Because they do not possess licence or permit, they are not eligible to get government assistance including Bantuan Khas Sarawakku Sayang (BKSS), the RM2,250 grant through the local councils, and disbursements by entrepreneur agencies in April and May," he said.

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Datuk Mohd Naroden Majais

during the launching of the 'Jum Regista Bisnes Sarawakku Sayang' programme organised by his ministry together with Sarawak Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) and Simunjan District Office, at Gedong Community Hall on Tuesday.

He said the programme seeks to invite entrepreneurs, especially those in rural areas, to get themselves registered as many do not have the required trading licence or permit.

"Those who are interested to do business but have not applied for any licence or permit from the district office, local council or any other agency, can do so

through this programme," he added.

He explained that the government wants entrepreneurs in the state to be registered not to collect taxes but to formalise and ease the way they do business whether at home or at the roadside.

Registered businesses are eligible to rent stalls or shop lots, participate in training programmes to improve their businesses or products and also qualify for the various assistances available, he added.

"I was made to understand that SEDC will launch 'Pusat Alamat' in Simunjan which is similar to an incubation centre, whereby

it provides a space for addresses and post boxes for businesses and others

"These address spaces include post boxes and spaces for discussions and meetings and could be used as a business registration address. So a big thank you to SEDC."

Meanwhile Mohd Naroden, who is Gedong assemblyman, said the completion of various infrastructures has enabled folks in his constituency to travel direct to Samarahan and Kuching.

"The travelling time from Gedong to Kuching is now shorter by about 40 minutes, meaning that produce from Gedong can reach the bigger market places in Kuching and Samarahan quicker.

"Hence we in the rural and coastal areas must be prepared to face changes in the future especially those brought about by the construction of highways and in how we work through digital economy," he said.