

Statistics Act to be revised next year

➤ Move to facilitate compilation of data as world economy, social well-being and environment evolve

KUALA LUMPUR: The government is planning to revise the Statistics Act 1965 in the Dewan Rakyat in July 2024 to increase the Statistics Department's role in strengthening the country's statistical landscape.

Chief statistician Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said the department continues to make strides in producing important statistics as the landscape of globalisation, the world economy, social well-being and the environment evolve.

"The strengthening of the National Statistical System is an

initiative led by the department and has been mandated by the government to strengthen the capabilities of the National Statistical System (NSS).

"This initiative represents a shift towards encouraging innovation and improving the standard of decision-making for the existing NSS," he said in his keynote speech at the launch of the 10th Malaysian Statistics Conference yesterday.

Speaking on the history of Malaysian statistics, Mohd Uzir said the compilation of gross domestic product (GDP) began in 1961 when

the department, at the time known as the Statistics Bureau, released data for the first time with a focus on the agricultural sector, petroleum production and several other key sectors.

He said in the 1970s, Malaysia began to use the input-output method to calculate GDP, which allowed for a more detailed analysis of the economic structure, Bernama reported.

"In the 1980s, the country began to use a real-time series system for data collection to ensure GDP was released more quickly and accurately. In 1993, to help improve the accuracy of economic data and understanding of the country's economic structure, Malaysia began compiling GDP based on the System of National Accounts (SNA) 1968.

"Until now, Malaysia has been using the concepts and methods