

513,000 youths have redeemed phone rebates so far

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PETALING JAYA: More than a million people have signed up for the RM200 youth smartphone rebate since Jan 1, but only about half have actually redeemed them.

Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) strategic communications adviser Sheikh Raffie Abd Rahman said 513,025 people had cashed in their rebates by May 29.

He said many applicants failed to redeem their rebates within the three-month period given to them after registering, making their redepositions invalid.

"In many cases, the applicant did not or forgot to bring their approved application slip to authorised dealers, causing difficulties," he said.

Some, said Sheikh Raffie, made mistakes in filling up their forms or waited for certain phone mod-

els to be made available at dealers near them.

He added that those who missed the deadline would be taken off the approved rebate list and would have to wait another month before they could apply again.

Announced in Budget 2013, the RM200 rebate is meant for those aged 21 to 30 with monthly incomes under RM3,000.

It was offered on a first-come-first-served basis for up to 1.5 million people, and ends when the limit is reached or on Dec 31 this year.

Dozens of phone models, including the iPhone 5 and BlackBerry Z10, have been offered by operators through thousands of authorised dealers nationwide as part of the plan.

At the moment, a little more than 400,000 people are still within the approved list but haven't redeemed their rebates yet.

Sheikh Raffie said this figure

was bound to go up and down with new applications coming in and individual redemption periods expiring.

It was reported that 77.8% of those on the approved list and have redeemed their rebates were young working adults, while the rest were students.

As of May 29, a total of 583,767 rebates are still up for grabs. The full number of those who had applied was not immediately known.

When the package was first released, the MCMC received a daily average of 12,000 new registrations in the first month.

Previously, the redemption period was set to one month, but was extended to three due to a small selection of phones and operators preparing their dealers for the package.

The rebate can be applied at <https://komunikasibelia.skmm.gov.my/>.

Youth Smartphone Rebate Statistics (as at May 29, 2013)

Total Smartphone Rebates offered : **1.5 million** people

Total redeemed (513,025 people)

Approved but not redeemed (403,208 people)

Rebates remaining (583,767 people)

Redeemed & approved applicants (total) **713,322**

Young working adults

202,911 Students

Total **916,233**

77.8%

22.2%

