

Statistics Dept assures info will be kept a secret

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Department of Statistics has assured business organisations participating in the latest Economic Census that the information they provide will remain confidential.

Department deputy chief statistician (economic programme) Ismail Yusoff said some companies had been hesitant to fill up the questionnaires because it involved sensitive business information.

“To those who are hesitant to share information with us, I assure you that all information given to us will not be shared with others.

“Based on the Statistics Act 1965 (amended 1989), responses to our questionnaires are marked as confidential, therefore only aggregate figures will be published,” he said during an interactive session with business associations here.

The Economic Census is held once every five years to obtain comprehensive information on the growth, structure and profile of economic activities to enable formulation of national development and economic plans.

About 700,000 business organisations all over Malaysia have been roped in to contribute, and will receive questionnaires from the department between now and November.

Respondents have a 30-day deadline to fill them and return to the department.

Ismail said the sectors covered include agriculture, mining and quarry, manufacturing, construction and services, except for distribution services.

“Among the information we will collect are the company’s core activities, profit and expense, salaries, stock value and assets,” added Ismail.

Business organisations who need help filling up the questionnaire can contact the department’s state offices or log on to www.statistics.gov.my.