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M'sians saying 'I do' later in life

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PUTRAJAYA: More Malaysians are saying "I do" later in life – just before age 30, according to statistics.

The Statistics Department said the average age of men getting hitched in 2010 was 28, compared to 27.8 in 1991.

For women, it was 25.8 in 2010 and 24.8 in 1991, it said.

The data was from regular census of the population. More current statistics were not available.

The department's social and demography deputy chief statistician Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said that based on the trend, more Malaysians may be marrying even later in life in the future.

"There are a lot of contributing factors, including changes in lifestyle, career and education.

"The next census will be in 2020 and we expect that the trend will continue," he said in an interview yesterday.

The Star reported on Thursday that the life expectancy of Malaysians was on the rise, with men and women expected to live for 12 to 17 years past retirement age.

According to the Statistics Department, men are expected to live until the age of 72 and women until 77.

This is an improvement from 2010 when male life expectancy was 71.9 years and 76.6 years for females.

Due to the increased life expectancy, many seem to be opting to get married a little later in life, Dr Mohd Uzir said.

He said many choose to pursue higher education before marriage and do not stop at degree level but go on to do their master and doctorate studies.

Career achievements also contributed to the trend of Malaysians marrying later, he said, explaining that they focused on their career to gain financial stability before considering marriage.

The top three causes of death in 2012 and 2013 were heart disease, pneumonia and stroke, according to the department.