



Economic Census 2016 will involve 700,000 companies (UPDATED)

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PUTRAJAYA: The Statistics Department will conduct a nationwide survey called the Economic Census 2016, involving 700,000 companies, beginning April, says Chief Statistician Datuk Dr Abdul Rahman Hasan.

He said these companies would receive a set of 200 questions by post.

"The respondents will have to answer the questions, as it is compulsory under the Statistics Act 1965, and return the forms to us within a month. They will be slapped with a fine of RM500 if they fail to do so," Abdul Rahman told a press conference after signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the department and Pos Malaysia Bhd here yesterday.

He added that the findings would help the department identify new economic sectors and resources.

"The census' results will be used as a new benchmark to tabulate the gross domestic product," said Abdul Rahman, adding that the census is carried out every five years. The last one was conducted in 2010.

He also said the department would announce all 26 results of the census in stages, beginning June 2017.

"We will establish a portal to enable companies to evaluate their positions based on the new benchmark, for example, in terms of wages and sector productivity," he said.

On the MoU, Abdul Rahman said Pos Malaysia will assist the department in the Population and Housing Census 2020 by providing residential data.

"It is estimated that Malaysia's population will reach 32.4 million in 2020 while the number of residence will increase to nine million compared with 7.3 million in 2010," he said.

Abdul Rahman added that a complete address structure, in compliance with international standards, is needed to ensure a comprehensive data collection. – *Bernama*

