

Give accurate info, says Statistics Dept

By Danial Dzulkifly
danial@mmail.com.my

PUTRAJAYA — The Statistics Department wants those who take part in its surveys to provide accurate information.

Chief statistician Datuk Abdul Rahman Hasan said this would make the data tabulation more precise.

He was commenting on the launch of a Household Income, Expenditure and Basic Amenities survey (HIES) as well as the Census of Distributive Trade (CDT) early this year.

Abdul Rahman said such surveys were important in tabulating critical data on the public's spending pattern as well as identifying the poverty level in Malaysia.

"The main objective is to collect information on income distribution and household expenditure, while trying to identify the poor as well as the level of basic facilities enjoyed by households in the country," he said.

"Revenue data will be used as an input for economic planning. Meanwhile, spending data used in the calculation of weighted Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a proxy to measure the rate of inflation."

Abdul Rahman said the surveys were important for the formulation of government economic policies as well as action plans by respective agencies.

"Such data will help agencies related in the planning, development and formulation of policies. Information, particularly in the eradication of poverty and tackling inequality income, will become more comprehensive," he said.

He said both surveys would give a precise look on the effectiveness of government economic policies as well as their agencies' projects.

"The census also provides critical data so that the agencies and policy makers are able to make improvements on their next course of action," he said.

HIES involves over 84,000 households nationwide, and collects information such as demographics, income, expenses and basic amenities by using questionnaires.

Over 56,000 households have been



Abdul Rahman (right) and his deputy Ismail Yusoff want full cooperation from Malaysians to give accurate data during the census exercise. — Picture by Razak Ghazali

interviewed so far, and over 7,000 households will do so each month until year-end.

The questionnaires are conducted face-to-face by the department's officers.

Meanwhile, the CDT gives a crucial outlook to Malaysia's service sectors and their progress, with over 600,000 registered companies expected to provide the information.

"The census report presents statistics on the distributive trade sector which encompasses the wholesale trade, retail trade and motor vehicles sub-sectors," Abdul Rahman said.

"The main objective of this report is to publish data relating to revenue, expenditure, salaries and wages paid and value of fixed assets for economic planning and policy formulation, as well as for economic projections and analyses."

The CDT census is sent through the mail, with the company expected to reply within one month.

Abdul Rahman said census information given to the department will not be revealed to any third party.

"Information collected under the provisions of the Statistics Act of 1965 (Revised 1989) clearly states that the

contents of the questionnaire is strictly confidential and may not be divulged to anyone or any institution outside the department," he said.

"We take this very seriously as if there is any leak of information, the department could be held legally responsible. As a measure of protection and confidentiality, all information will be published in aggregated form."

Both surveys, conducted every five years, contribute to the economic planning of the country. The ongoing HIES and CDT will help draw the framework of the 11th Malaysia Plan.

TARIKH: 13 OGOS 2014
AKHBAR: MALAY MAIL