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Malaysia's population now over 27 million

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PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia's population stands at 27,565,821, according to the 2010 Population and Housing Census preliminary report.

The fifth nationwide census was conducted by the Statistics Department between July 6 and Aug 22. In 2000, the country's population was 22,198,276.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop said the male population totalled 14,114,667 and female, 13,453,154.

The annual average growth from 2000 to 2010 was 2.17 per cent, a drop from the 2.6 per cent for 1991 to 2000, he told a press conference yesterday.

Present was Statistics Department director-general Datuk Wan Ramlah Wan Abdul Raof.

The census also found 6,396,174 households and 7,380,865 housing units in the country.

Nor Mohamed said Selangor continued to be the most populated state with 5,411,324 or 19.63 per cent of the country's population.

"The Federal Territory of Putrajaya had the highest population growth during the 2000-2010 period with 17.77 per cent, followed by Selangor (3.17 per cent).

"This was due to the influx of civil servants residing in the country's administrative capital."

Nor Mohamed said the states which experienced a decline in growth between 1980 and 2010 were the Federal Territory of Labuan, Sabah, Sarawak, Pahang, Johor, Kedah, Negri Sembilan and Terengganu.

Malacca, meanwhile, recorded increasing growth rate from 1980-2010.

Nor Mohamed said the country's fertility rate dropped 0.7 per cent to 2.3 per cent this year compared with three per cent in 2000.

He also said 27.2 per cent of the total population were aged 0-14; 68.2 per cent, 15-64; and 4.6 per cent, 65 and above.

"The country is not an aging society, even by 2015. Definition of aging is when those aged 65 and above make up 10 per cent of the population."

The report on the census is available on the Statistics Department's website and the hard copy can be purchased from the department at RM15.

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