

Fewer females than males, says census

Minister: Johor records highest ratio with only 100 women to every 112 men

PUTRAJAYA: Males continue to outnumber the female population in Malaysia. The overall gender ratio in the country shows that there are more males than females.

The National Census 2010 preliminary count report revealed that Malaysia has 14,112,667 males and 13,453,154 females.

"There are 112 males for every 100 females in Johor, which recorded the highest ratio. Putrajaya's ratio is the lowest with 88 males for every 100 females," Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop told reporters after reviewing the report yesterday.

The Malaysian population stands at 27,565,821 with Selangor being the most populous state in the country.

The report shows that the country's population grew at an average 2.17% annually between 2000 and 2010.

The report said 19.63% of the country's population or 5,411,324 people are in Selangor, followed by Johor (3.2 million), Sabah (3.1 million), Sarawak (2.4 million) and Perak (2.2 million).

Nor Mohamed said Putrajaya had the lowest population with 67,964 but experienced the highest population growth over the past 10 years with 17% increase due to the opening of more ministries and government offices in the federal administrative capital.

The report also stated that there were 6.39 million existing households and 7.38 million living quarters nationwide.

On another matter, Nor Mohamed said that while fertility rate in Malaysia was expected to be low in the coming years, efforts should be taken to "compensate" this by ensuring that the people were highly-skilled and knowledgeable.

This is to ensure that the country would continue to develop and progress, he said.

He said that according to figures, the coun-

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TAN SRI NOR MOHAMED YAKCOP

try's fertility rate was at 3% in 2000, but was expected to dip to 2.1% in 2015, adding that this trend was not exclusive to Malaysia but a global one.

"By 2015, our population is expected to be 29.8 million. Instead of being concerned whether we have enough people to generate the economy, we should instead ensure that our pool of workers comprise those who are talented, skilled and highly-knowledgeable.

"When we cannot depend on quantity, we should make sure the quality of our workers remains high at all times so that our country can continue to progress," he said.

Nor Mohamed said the Government had unveiled various programmes to boost workers' skills and knowledge, including by enhancing vocational and technical training.

Nor Mohamed also dismissed concerns that the country was becoming an "aging society", adding that currently, those 65 years and above only made up 4.6% of the population and by 2015, the percentage was expected to reach only 5.4%.