

MALAYSIA'S POPULATION HITS 27.5 MILLION

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PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia's population is now 27,565,821, comprising 14,112,667 males and 13,453,154 females, according to the preliminary count report of Census 2010.

The average annual population growth rate from 2000 to 2010 was 2.17% – a drop compared with 2.6% for 1991-2000 and 2.64% for 1980-1991.

"This decline in growth is in line with the country's trend in moving towards becoming a developed nation. The slow growth rate reflects the living standard of the people," said Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yacop, who announced the findings at the Statistics Department here yesterday.

"The standard is higher now because people are concentrating more on career, resulting in late marriages," he said.

According to the report, the census carried out from July 6 to Aug 22 recorded a total of 6,396,174 households and 7,380,865 living quarters.

Nor Mohamed said the final data and detailed analysis will only be ready once the department has completed processing the data gathered, estimated in July next year.

CENSUS 2010 (preliminary findings)

TOTAL population
27.6 mil

MALE 14.1 mil
FEMALE 13.5 mil

AVERAGE annual population growth 2.17%

HOUSEHOLDS
6.4 mil

LIVING quarters
7.4 mil

The state that recorded the highest population growth during the 2000-2010 period is the Federal Territory of Putrajaya (17.77%), followed by Selangor (3.17%).

States recording a decline in growth rate from 1980 to 2010 are the Federal Territory of Labuan, Sabah, Sarawak, Pahang, Johor, Kedah, Negri Sembilan and Terengganu.

Asked whether the low growth rate is a cause for concern to the government as there might not be enough manpower to stir the economy, Nor Mohamed said "it is not".

TURN TO PAGE 06 ►

Higher purchasing power

► FROM FRONT PAGE

"Going forward, what we really require in Malaysia is not so much the numbers but the talent, skill and highly-knowledgeable people. A high quality population, with high income jobs, would have a higher purchasing power.

"In generating our economy, among others, we need purchasing power, which depends on the quality of our people, not the quantity," he added.

As for the overall sex ratio, the report said there were 105 males for every 100 females in Malaysia

and among the states with a higher sex ratio than the national ratio are Johor (112), Pahang (111), Negri Sembilan (107) and Sabah (106).

On the other hand, Nor Mohamed said, Putrajaya recorded the lowest sex ratio of 88 males for every 100 females.

On the average household size, this year's census showed a decreasing trend with an average of 4.31 as compared with 4.62 in the 2000 Census.

"Sabah, Kelantan and Terengganu recorded the highest average household size at 5.88, 4.86 and 4.78 respectively," he added.