

Census Internet convenience

Chief Secretary encourages use of online facilities at government departments

By REENA RAJ

— reenaraj@mmail.com.my —

PUTRAJAYA: Chief Secretary to the Government, Tan Sri Mohd Sidek Hassan, has urged the public to use the online method for the fifth Population and Housing Census of Malaysia 2010 launched yesterday.

He was the first individual to use the online system at his residence in Putrajaya, guided by Federal Territories Statistics Department director Datin Hajar Md Taha.

"It is a very simple and convenient way to complete the census. Everything is made easy by the online facilities provided by most government departments and the people should make full use of the service."

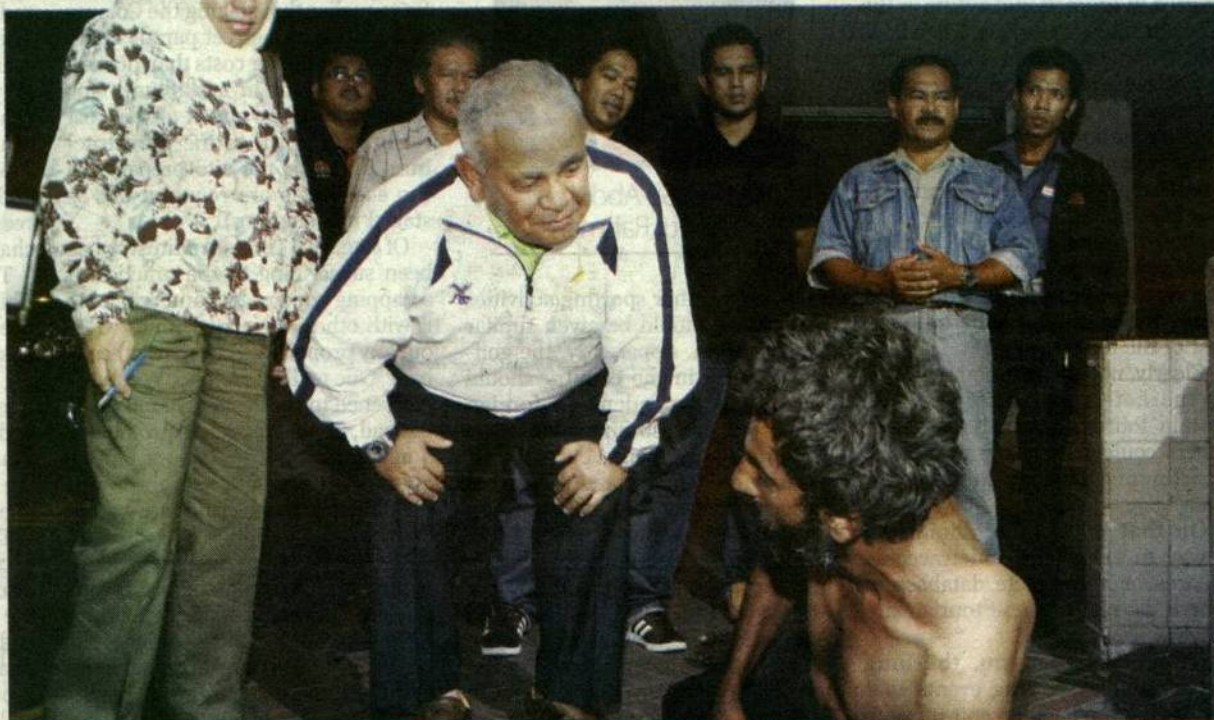
He said the online service is mainly targeted at those in urban areas and those with Internet access.

Mohd Sidek said government departments have gone about 50 per cent online and could reach a higher percentage, but the problem was whether the people would want to use the facilities.

"The Internal Revenue Department started the e-filing system, which has made the process of submitting your income tax declarations smoother."

"The land tax can be paid online, but I was informed lately that the number of people using the system is really low. So the problem is not that we can't provide, but the question is whether we really have takers for the online service."

Mohd Sidek said it would probably take some time before the public felt comfortable using the online system.



CONCERNED: Bakaruddin (right) and Hajar (left) interviewing a homeless man at a bus stop outside Menara Dayabumi
— Pic: ARIF KARTONO

Commissioner's new census update

THE fifth Population and Housing Census of Malaysia 2010 is estimated to see the population numbers increase by 1.3 per cent compared to the 2000 census. Population and Housing Census commissioner Datuk Wan Ramlah Wan Abd Rauf spoke with *The Malay Mail* on the census which began yesterday.

How many staff are involved in the census this time round?

There are 26,000 temporary enumerators and 3,000 temporary supervisors employed for the task.

How is the census being carried out?

We are using three methods. First is the traditional method, where the enumerators will have face-to-face interviews. This is more applicable in rural areas. The second is applicable for those in the urban areas who can't be met at their homes. These people can request for the census questionnaires to be dropped off at their homes and they have to complete and hand in the form within three days. The third method is the latest, which is for online submissions.

When will the census results be available to the public?

The basic results — the number of males and females — would be prepared by November and the rest would be released in stages next year.

Do you think there will be a high number of people who would use the online census system?

It's the first time we are implementing this system. Usually, first-time implementation is a bit slow. Therefore, I see less than five per cent of the population taking advantage of the online system.

Special census for the homeless

By SHAHRIM TAMRIN

— shahrimtamrin@mmail.com.my —

KUALA LUMPUR: Mohd Shaqir Teo Abdullah thought there was an operation of the homeless last night when he was awakened in the wee hours at his "residence" outside Menara Dayabumi.

He said since the bus stop near Dayabumi became his home the past six weeks, he was fearful of being taken away.

"I thought I would be hauled up in an operation tonight for sleeping at a public place," said the 33-year-old from Sepang.

The authorities were indeed on an operation last night — a special census for the homeless as part of the

Population and Housing Census of Malaysia 2010, which began yesterday and would end on Aug 22.

The operation in the city last night was headed by the Federal Territories and Urban Well-being Ministry deputy secretary-general (Planning and Development) Datuk Bakaruddin Othman and Federal Territories Statistics Department director Datin Hajar Md Taha.

"It is important to gather information from all walks of life in order for the government to understand the people better, especially in policy-making decisions for the economy and development," said Bakaruddin.

He said, no one would be left out in the national census and they included the homeless.

He said last night's exercise was carried out by 77 personnel from four government agencies at several locations in the city.

"We split the enumerators into five groups to locate the homeless," he said, adding that operations would begin at midnight and end by 7am, the following morning.

"We have 1,664 part-time enumerators to conduct this massive exercise in KL this time around."

The census, first conducted in 1963, takes place every 10 years. This year, it would involve 28.3 million Malaysians and 7.5 million houses. The number of survey officers involved is 29,000. The last census was in 2000.

The survey forms are also available online at www.statistics.gov.my.