

**National Census Will Help Planning And Policy Implementation**

KUALA LUMPUR, July 10 (Bernama) -- Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Jalil said the national census will help the government in planning and policy implementation to upgrade the people's quality of life.

"Data on population distribution, density, structure and activities are important guides for national development planning.

"Accurate and updated information will speed up and make plans to meet the people's aspirations effective," she said in a statement here Sunday.

She said it was also in conjunction with World Population Day 2010 celebration tomorrow with the theme "Everyone Counts." The national census is from July 6-Aug 22.

Shahrizat said World Population Day was aimed at increasing public understanding and awareness on the link between population and development.

It would also promote issues to policy makers, planners and programme managers to integrate the population with national development.

"The government will continue to double efforts to eradicate hardcore poverty, improve reproductive health, strengthen the status of women and stabilise the economy."

She said this was line with the International Conference on Population and Development's Programme of Action (ICPD-POA) 1994 and objectives of Millennium Development Goal 2000.

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