

Enumerators trained to cope with dogs

How to identify enumerators

- ▶ Look for identification tags with their names and numbers which citizens can refer to the department to confirm.
- ▶ Department issued bags which have the census exercise logo.
- ▶ If in doubt, check with the Statistics Department at 03-88857826 or toll free 1-800-88-7828.

About census:

- ▶ Interviews take about 10 minutes per person.
- ▶ Citizens are not obliged to allow enumerators into their houses.
- ▶ Interviews can be done through fences and grille doors.
- ▶ Census period is between July 6 and Aug 22.
- ▶ For more information, visit www.statistics.gov.my

Star GRAPHICS © 2010



Census officers given intensive training to handle various situations

By **ZUHRIN AZAM AHMAD**
zuhrazam@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: Beware of dogs, fierce barking dogs! This was the warning given to the 29,000 enumerators conducting the national census over the next six weeks.

While there had not been any report of census officers being chased by dogs during previous exercises, the Statistics Department is not taking any chances and has trained them to handle the situation should it arise.

"Such things can happen because some people keep dogs to protect them and chase away strangers.

"In anticipation of this, we have given our officers some tips on how to handle the situation," a spokesman said.

For instance, he added, the officers are advised to move a few steps backwards, avoid provocative gestures and patiently wait till the dogs calm down before resuming the attempt to get the attention of the house residents.

The enumerators, who include part-timers, were given an intensive 10-day training to carry out the RM200mil exercise, the fifth since 1970. Areas under survey will be divided into blocks, with each block comprising 80 to

120 residences.

The spokesman said to minimise communication issues, the enumerators were recruited from all races.

He said the drop-off and pick-up (Dopu) method has been introduced to overcome the problem of residents being away when enumerators arrive.

The enumerators will leave a census kit – a transparent plastic bag containing a questionnaire for households to fill in – at the residence.

After it has been filled, the residents have to leave the bag on the gate and call a listed officer who will come and collect it within three days.

The spokesman said bona fide census officers would be carrying department-issued identification tags with their names and number.

Chief Statistician Datuk Wan Ramlah Wan Abdul Raof said there had yet to be any reports of census officers encountering fierce dogs.

"The problems we face are mostly communication issues, as sometimes only senior citizens, maids and children are at home when the officers call.

"And there are, of course, remote areas that are very difficult to access, particularly in Sabah and Sarawak, where officers have to take trains, helicopters and boats," she said.