



Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Sidek Hassan downloading the e-Census form at his home in Putrajaya as his wife Puan Sri Wan Noorlina Wan Hussein (right) looks on. With them are Information Management Division (Statistics Department) senior director Sabri Omar and Statistics Department director Datin Hajar Md Taha. — NST picture by David Khoo

# Early bird Sidek opts for e-Census

**By Sean Augustin and Atiqa Hazellah**  
news@nst.com.my

**PUTRAJAYA:** Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Sidek Hassan pulled the glass table, on which his laptop had been placed, closer to him.

He carefully keyed in information while listening intently to the instructions given by Statistics Department director Datin Hajar Md Taha.

"This is easy," the top civil servant said before asking Hajar a few questions.

Sidek was among the first few Malaysians to use the e-Census form that was launched yesterday. The

form, which has 51 questions, can be downloaded from the department's website, [www.statistics.gov.my](http://www.statistics.gov.my).

For Hajar, coaching Sidek was an experience.

"This is the first time in my 30 years of service that I am assisting the top civil servants to take part in the e-Census. I am honoured," she said.

Speaking to reporters later, Sidek said he wanted government agencies and Malaysians to embrace electronic governance.

He said that 50 per cent of government agencies used it although it was "something all departments must do".

Electronic governance, he said, was a faster and more efficient way of

doing things, such as renewing documents. It was cost-effective too, as less money would be spent on travelling to departments and agencies.

The Inland Revenue Board's e-filing system was a great example of electronic governance, he added.

"We must go beyond census taking on e-filing. Whatever can be done online, must be done online. We should head in that direction to increase productivity."

Statistics Department chief statistician Datuk Wan Ramlah Wan Abd Raof said the e-Census was one of three new data collection methods that would make things easier for busy urban residents.

"Ask our enumerators for a PIN

(personal identification number) when they come by your house. Log on to the website with the PIN and key in your email account. A password will be sent to your email address to log on to the e-Census form."

Every filled form will be electronically scanned to reduce data-entry errors.

The second method is via the drop-off and pick-up (Dopu) census kit that respondents can fill up, before officers retrieve them from their homes.

Dopu, however, is valid only for three days.

The third is the usual interview.

The census is being carried out nationwide until Aug 22.