

# Census to seek the homeless

## Enumerators will visit 7.5 million homes for statistical information

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

**KUALA LUMPUR:** A concerted exercise to include homeless people in the 2010 national census was conducted throughout the country last night, as the Statistics Department embarked on the latest Population and Housing Census.

The massive exercise saw enumerators duck-walking under bridges and scouting bus stations for homeless people to record their personal information.

The one-night only exercise also involved policemen for security.

A department spokesman said the homeless were required to provide only their name and gender.

"It was more like a headcount. So the exercise was only for a night as we didn't want to have duplicate data," said the spokesman.

The census exercise will end on Aug 22.

During the six-week period, 29,000

enumerators will visit an estimated 7.5 million residences to collect statistical information vital in the planning, formulation and implementation of government policies.

The methods of data collection are face-to-face interviews, drop-off and pick-up (DOPU) and e-Census.

Chief statistician Datuk Wan Ramlah Wan Abdul Raof said respondents must insist on the special identification tag from the enumerators before an interview could take place.

She said normally only one enumerator would visit a residence at a time.

"Respondents ought to be suspicious if they are approached by more than one person claiming to be enumerators.

"Please insist on the tag and if they are not convinced, check with our hotline 1-800-88-7828."

Wan Ramlah also said that respondents were not obliged to allow enumerators into their homes.

"The interviews can be conducted

through the gate or grille door," she said, adding that the questionnaire contained 51 items covering, among others, geographical characteristics, social and demographic factors, fertility and mortality, education and household details.

She said in the DOPU method, enumerators would drop off a census kit in the home.

"They will then return within three days to pick up the completed questionnaire. Respondents can also fill up an electronic form should they opt for the e-Census," she said.

The form can be accessed at [www.statistics.gov.my](http://www.statistics.gov.my).

For control purposes, e-Census is only open to certain areas.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop, who launched the census exercise yesterday, said it was every citizen's responsibility to get himself counted.

The preliminary count from this fifth census will be released in November.



**Info collector:** Census officer Diana Ali interviewing Che Fatimah Che Mat at her house in Kuala Terengganu yesterday. Looking on are Che Fatimah's children.