

Open your doors to these officers

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PUTRAJAYA: The national census starts today with 26,000 officers on duty for the next six weeks.

They will be armed with forms consisting of 51 questions ranging from demographics, migration, income range, gender, race, religion, level of education, employment statuses, deaths and fertility.

The Statistics Department's director-general Datuk Wan Ramlah Wan Abd Raof said the exercise would be slightly different from the one carried out 10 years ago.

Five new questions will be added in the census starting from July 6 to Aug 22. The coverage will include hospitals, army and police camps, rehabilitation centres, Orang Asli settlements, illegals settlements, the homeless and foreigners.

The new questions seek to find out if any of the house owners or tenants are engaged in agriculture, where they were staying last year, mode of transport and how old were they on



	Year 2000(%)	Estimated 2010(%)
AGE GROUPS		
0 - 14	33.3	27.2
15-64	62.8	68.1
65 above	3.9	4.7
RURAL AND URBAN POPULATIONS		
Urban	62.1	63.4
Rural	37.9	36.6
TOTAL POPULATION	23.5 mil	28.3 mil

their first marriage.

She said the data for mode of transport was part of the government's effort to improve the public transport industry.

"It will record travelling mode of people from work to home and the venues."

As for the age of the first marriage, she said the question would be posed to people living in Sabah and Sarawak as the population in rural areas there is dropping.

Ramlah said the country's population is expected to have gone up from 23.5 million in 2000 to 28.3 million

this year while the number of working adults aged 15 to 64 is expected to have increased from 62.8 per cent to 68.1.

She said the census would provide data for policymakers, planners, researchers and the private sector.

"The government will know how many schools and hospitals to be build, work opportunities or the type of business the private sector can expand on."

The initial results are expected to be released in November while the details will be made known in March or April onwards.

Ramlah said only the aggregate data without any names would be released.

She those engaged in the census are prohibited from passing on the information they have collected.

Those found guilty of such an offence under the Census Act 1960 are liable to be fined up to RM2,000 or sentenced to a year's jail, or both.

Respondents who fail to cooperate with the census officers or disclose false information face a fine of RM100, a month's jail or both.

She said the interview for a small family will last about 15 minutes and slightly longer for a family of 10.

Those who are not at home will be issued a census kit containing a form. There is also a contact number for respondents to call the officer to collect the completed forms at an agreed date.

"This is the best approach because some people work long hours. They are given three days to contact the officer."

All the questions should be answered using a black ball pen, one of which is provided in the kit.

Respondents can also choose to answer the questions on e-census, available in www.statistics.gov.my. To open the form, a person will first access the identification code, and a password will be sent to his or her email which could be used to open the file.

Ramlah said the census officers would carry an identification card with the department's logo-blue card for supervisors and orange ones for officers. For more information call 1-800-88-7828.