

Census 2010 to meet country's requirements for good planning

KUALA LUMPUR:

Information from the Population and Housing Census of Malaysia 2010 will shape government policies and meet the country's requirements for good planning to develop the economy.

The groundwork for Malaysia's economic and infrastructure development information for the next decade is from July 6 to August 22 with the start of the national census.

"The census will help to identify and collect data for the general requirements of the country for the benefit and uplifting of the standard of the people of Malaysia," said chief statistician and census commissioner Datuk Wan Ramlah Wan

Abd Raof.

This census project will cost RM200 million, an increase of RM2 million from the previous census carried out in 2000.

"A lot of proper planning will be done.

The census will increase government consumption under the country's gross domestic product," Wan Ramlah said.

"As a result of this census, the government will find out which areas need to be developed, and the requirements needed in areas such as schools and public amenities," she told Bernama in an interview yesterday.

"It will also create job opportunities as through the census, data on unemployed

graduates will be collected, information on which sector the population is engaged in and total migration taking place," she said.

Wan Ramlah said the spending would be on payment of salaries, and purchasing of new equipment due to two new methods — drop-off and pick-up, and e-census and other needs — introduced to conduct the census.

The government has employed 29,000 staff on a temporary basis, of whom 26,000 are temporary field enumerators and 3,000 are temporary supervisors, she said.

In 2000 during the previous census, 23.5 million total residences were registered, Wan Ramlah

said.

"We are estimating about 29 million total residences in this census," she said.

During this period, enumerators will call at every household for the purpose of interviewing and obtaining detailed data such as racial origins, languages spoken, religions, number of people in each household, their ages, educational qualifications, occupations, type of schools attended by children and other information deemed fit.

The census will cover Malaysians and foreigners, including illegal immigrants, who have been residing in the country for more than six months. — Bernama