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## **Next national census is in 2010**

**PUTRAJAYA:** Malaysia's next national census will be held in 2010.

The findings will provide the government with important input to formulate the country's future development plans, including the 10th Malaysia Plan and the new economic model, said Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop.

He said statistics collected from the census would be the most up-to-date and comprehensive, adding it would be useful in helping the government outline the country's future economic path.

The national census programme, carried out once every 10 years will be conducted throughout next year.

"The census is timely because the 10th Malaysia Plan will begin in 2011 and we are currently drawing up the new economic model.

"By then, we will have all these figures and statistics which will become a major input to our plans," he told reporters after launching the Statistics department 60th anniversary Tuesday.

Nor Mohamed said some 29,000 temporary workers, mainly fresh graduates, would be employed to help with the census and the government had approved RM212mil for the purpose.

Among questions to be asked include education, age, profession, the number of family members and those working and type of facilities provided for the house occupants.

On the new economic model, Nor Mohamed said the formulating process had already begun, including appointing Tan Sri Amirsham Aziz as the chairman of the National Economic Advisory Council.

"In the process (of formulating), many of the building blocks are clear and we are also clear about the basic framework of the model which is creating an economy based on innovation, creativity and higher value-added

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“This means we have to move towards the services sector where it should reach a level experienced by developed countries of about 70%,” he said.

Nor Mohamed Yakcop gave the assurance that the manufacturing sector would remain important but would have to move up “to the higher part of the curve”.

He, however, declined to reveal when the new model would be ready, saying it would be the Prime Minister’s call to announce it.

The new economic model, initiated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak is aimed at boosting the nation’s economic status from middle to high income and towards a developed nation status by 2020.