

Firms and organisation cooperation needed to complete Economic Census 2011

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KOTA KINABALU: About 15 per cent of the 40,000 firms and

organisations in Sabah have responded to the Economic Census 2011 (BE2011) by returning the survey forms distributed to them when the exercise started in April this year, disclosed Sabah Statistics Department deputy director,

Amran Othman.
"Among the factors for the discouraging feedback is the worry by certain companies that their failure to divulge financial information to the Internal Revenue Board or employing illegal

immigrants would implicate them. The department only collects relevant information to use in planning the country's economic development and to identify the difficulties faced by the industries," he stressed in a media conference here.

Urging cooperation from firms and organisations in regard to the census that will end in December, Amran gave the assurance that all information received would remain confidential, as provided for under the Statistics Act 1965 (Revised 1989).

He said the whole exercise would involve some 943,000 local and foreign firms and businesses operating in Malaysia with 40,000 in Sabah.

"The census is conducted every five years, with the first in 2001; all these establishments must be registered with the Companies Commission of Malaysia, Registrar of Societies and various registration bodies such as professional bodies, Construction Industry Development Board and business associations," he said.

According to him, the census also encompassed establishments in the country's main economic sectors; agriculture, mining and quarrying, manufacturing, construction



Amran Othman showing the Economic Census report for the 2010.

and services.

"The BE2011 would also, for the first time, be carried out simultaneously with Small and Medium Enterprises (SME's) Census 2011 because 95 per cent of the establishments are SME's and hence could save cost and time," he added.

In addition, data on SMEs obtained from the census would provide an updated database on SMEs as well as to monitor and evaluate the contributions of SMEs to the overall economy.

"One of the important usage of data collected would be access to financing, where the government could identify the financing sources of each establishment, what are the factors contributing to the failure in financing and which sectors require financing assistance," Amran said.

For more information, companies could log on to www.statistics.gov.my or call 088-464630/643 or email to banciekonomi@stats.gov.my.