PUTRAJAYA: Answer the 108 questions in the Population and Housing Census 2020 (Census 2020) and you will be helping to chart the country’s direction and development for the next 10 years.

The first phase of Census 2020, themed ‘Your Data Is Our Future’, which began on July 7, will end on Sept 30. Phase 2 is face-to-face interviews from Oct 7 until Oct 24.

The census is conducted every 10 years.

Chief Statistician Malaysia Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said the data collected would be impactful and go a long way for the nation as it would be used to form government policies.

He said the questions for this cycle were formulated at the end of 2017 after consultation with various key ministerial and government agencies on a wide range of topics and centred on matters that could help Malaysia move forward as a developing country.

"Through Census 2020, the country’s rich resources are given back to the people in line with our slogan ‘No One Will Be Left Behind’.

"This is where development can grow in tandem and gaps can be closed.

"The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DoSM) will then make recommendations to the respective ministries and government agencies and other key stakeholders on their needs and wants.

"We take on the micro approach and envision neighbourhoods to be developed holistically with the infrastructure and amenities that they desire and to be self-sustainable that complements their physical and social wellbeing,” said Uzir yesterday.