

# PM: CENSUS CRUCIAL FOR POLICYMAKING

Population, housing census carried out every decade vital foundation to chart country's growth

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**T**HE Malaysian Population and Housing Census 2020 (Census 2020) is a crucial source of reference and serves as an important foundation to chart the country's growth.

Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the census, done every 10 years, would give an accurate picture of Malaysia's demographics and the information would shape the lives of future generations.

He said through the census, the size, distribution, composition, and socioeconomic characteristics of the people and the housing situation could be identified.

"Information on education, health and recreational facilities as well as road network gathered through the census will be used to formulate and implement government policies for development and the people's wellbeing.

"Looking back, the good life and benefits that we enjoy today are the results of the cooperation and commitment of the people who provided information in the last five censuses," Muhyiddin

said in his speech to launch the Census 2020 here yesterday.

He reiterated the government's commitment to continuing development efforts under the 12th Malaysia Plan and the Shared Prosperity Vision 2030 (SPV 2030).

However, he said, some current and future planning needed the government to be more proactive and responsive in implementing development under SPV 2030.

"To improve the people's wellbeing, decisions must be made correctly based on comprehensive facts and evidence."

He said the government and the people had the responsibility to ensure that the country continued to progress competitively, honourably and with integrity to ensure a good standard of living.

Muhyiddin said focus could be given to efforts to achieve developed nation status faster.

He said official statistics was the main thrust in the process of formulating socio-economic policies and the Department of Statistics had been entrusted with the responsibility to produce credible and reliable statistics on economics, social issues, demographics and the environment.

He said the National Statistics System used the best practices recommended by the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, which was developed to support the production of official statistics.

He said a robust National Statistics System needed to be developed in a challenging world as the country's competitiveness was

increasingly dependent on the power of data and information to make accurate decisions.

He said as such strategic investment by stakeholders was needed for infrastructure development and capacity building of the system, allowing the channelling of resources for planning and development to be done more efficiently and effectively.

He said as the country was still facing difficult times due to the Covid-19 outbreak and was still under the Recovery Movement Control Order, there were guidelines or standard operating procedures that Department of Statistics staff and those involved with Census 2020 must comply with.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Economy) Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed, in his speech earlier, said the statistics would be a key resource in the planning for the national budget and Malaysia Plan, among others.

Malaysia will use the online data gathering method through the e-Census system. The first phase will be carried out from July 7 to Sept 30, while the second phase, involving face-to-face interviews, will run from Oct 7 to Oct 24.

E-Census respondents will be given an identification address upon registering with the census portal and can file and submit the questionnaire in their own time.

Past censuses were carried out in 1970, 1980, 1991, 2000 and 2010.

Page 1 pic: A section of the crowd celebrating National Day last year at Dataran Putrajaya. FILE PIC