UNITED NATIONS EXPERT GROUP MEETING
THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON CONDUCTING POPULATION
AND HOUSING CENSUSES AND ON CENSUS DATA QUALITY CONCERNS

9-12 FEBRUARY 2021

MAJOR CHANGES IN THE DESIGN OF POPULATION AND
HOUSING CENSUSES DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN
MALAYSIA

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DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA
BACKGROUND OF DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA (DOSM)

In 1965, the Bureau of Statistics changed its name to the Department of Statistics Malaysia (under Prime Minister’s Department).

On 10 March 2020, the Department of Statistics Malaysia is under the purview of Prime Minister’s Department (Economy).

Established in 1949 under the Statistics Act 1949, known as the Bureau of Statistics.

Department Of Statistics Malaysia under the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

LEGISLATION

LAW OF MALAYSIA

Act 415

STATISTICS ACT 1965

(REVISI-1989)

Under the Statistics Act 1965 (Revised 1989), the functions of DOSM (Section 2) are:

- To collect and interpret statistics for the purpose of formulation or implementation of government policies....

CENSUS ACT 1960

Incorporating all amendments up to 1 January 2005

Under Census Act 1960:

- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong may, by notification in the Gazette, from time to time direct that a census to be taken throughout Malaysia of the Population, Agriculture, Trade, Labor, Industry, Commerce....
POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS OF MALAYSIA

1970
- Approach: De Facto
- Mode: Face-to-face interview

1980
- Conducted in 2 stages: 17 May 1980 (Housing), 11 June 1980 (Population)
- Approach: De Facto
- Mode: Face-to-face interview

1991
- Conducted in single stage on 14 August 1991
- Approach: De Facto & De Jure
- Mode: Face-to-face interview

2000
- Conducted on 5 July 2000
- Approach: De Jure
- Mode: Face-to-face interview

2010
- Conducted on 6 July 2010
- Approach: De Jure
- Mode: Face-to-face interview, Drop Off Pick Up (DOPU) & e-Census
“Looking back, the good lives and benefits that we enjoy today are the results of the cooperation and commitment of the people who provided the information needed during the last five censuses”.

Muhyiddin Yassin
Prime Minister of Malaysia
7 July 2020
OBJECTIVES & MYCENSUS 2020 IN FIGURES

**OBJECTIVES**

01. Collecting stocks & profiles of the country’s population and housing

02. Input for national development planning including the distribution of per capita grants

03. As a basis for the Estimation and Projection of the Population and Living Quarters

04. As an input for new benchmark in the development of socio-economic indicators

**2020**

- 32.7 million Populations
- 9.0 million Living Quarters
- 8.2 million Households
- 160 Administrative District
- 4.0 persons Avg. Households Size
- 1,107 Census District
- 99,356 Enumeration Block

MakeSureYou’reCOUNTED
### MAIN OUTCOME OF MYCENSUS 2020

#### NATIONAL AGENDA
- Population Policy
  - National Older Persons Policy
- Housing Policy
  - National Housing Policy
- Education Policy
  - National Education Policy
- Security Policy
  - National Social Policy
- Health Policy
  - National Adolescent Health Policy
- Financial Policy
- Fiscal Policy
- Budget Policy

#### INPUT
- Determination of Per Capita Grant
- Fundamentals for the Constitutional Democracy Process
- Balance & Sustainability of Urban and Rural Development

#### BENCHMARK
- Measurement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
  - i. 11 from 17 goals
  - ii. 110 from 169 targets
- Latest Benchmark & Achievement Assessment
  - i. National Level
  - ii. International Level
- Key Statistical Benchmark
  - i. Poverty rate
  - ii. Enrolment rate
  - iii. Labour force participation rate
  - iv. Unemployment rate
  - v. GDP per capita rate
  - vi. Demographic indicators

#### NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM
- **Malaysia Statistical Address Register**
  - Scientific and efficient household sampling method
- **Malaysia Statistical Population Register**
  - Census of population through updating of population information from time to time
- **Strengthening Information Technology Infrastructure and Computing**
  - Investment on Infrastructure and system modernization to enhance the production of national statistics
  - As a database for implementation of the Agricultural Census
## Adjustments in MyCensus 2020 Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 July 2020</td>
<td>Census Day</td>
<td>7 July 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>e-Census</strong></td>
<td>20 June - 9 July 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Face-to-face</strong></td>
<td>7 – 24 July 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 June 2020</td>
<td><strong>Adjustment of MyCensus 2020 in two phases:</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>First Phase (e-Census)</strong></td>
<td>7 July – 30 Sept. 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Second Phase (Face-to-face)</strong></td>
<td>7 – 24 October 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 October 2020</td>
<td><strong>Rescheduling of the MyCensus 2020:</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>First Phase (e-Census)</strong></td>
<td>7 July – 21 Dec. 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Second Phase (Face-to-face)</strong></td>
<td>20 Jan. – 6 Feb. 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 January 2021</td>
<td><strong>Rescheduling of the MyCensus 2020:</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>First Phase (e-Census)</strong></td>
<td>7 July 2020 – May 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Second Phase (Face-to-face)</strong></td>
<td>Subject to an approval from the Government of Malaysia</td>
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### COVID-19 Pandemic

1. **Movement Control Order (MCO)** effective on 18 March - 12 May 2020
2. **Upsurge of COVID-19 cases**
   - Conditional MCO was implemented in selected states from 27 October until 6 December 2020
3. **Movement Control Order (MCO) 2.0** effective on 11 Jan. – 18 Feb 2021
MODE OF CENSUS AND MAIN PARAMETERS

**MODE OF CENSUS**

- **e-CENSUS**
  - SELF RESPONSE VIA ONLINE
    - Online Self Listing

- **CATI**
  - COMPUTER ASSISTED TELEPHONE INTERVIEW
    - Telephone interview

- **CAPI**
  - COMPUTER ASSISTED PERSONAL INTERVIEW
    - Interview using tablet

- **PAPI**
  - PAPER AND PEN INTERVIEW
    - Face-to-face interview

- **DOPU**
  - DROP OFF AND PICK UP
    - Self-completion by the respondent

- **ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS**
  - Administrative records from 18 agencies

**MAIN PARAMETERS FROM CENSUS QUESTIONS**

1. **01**
   - Type of Living Quarters, Occupied/ Vacant LQ, Locality and Utility

2. **02**
   - Type of households, Ownership, Agriculture and Rental information

3. **03**
   - Sex, ethnic, religion, marital status, citizenship, education, occupation & industry and migration

4. **04**
   - Health and Fitness, Social Relation, Housing and Senior Citizen
### Why Malaysia Proceeds with MyCensus 2020?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field Operation</th>
<th>Census Questionnaire</th>
<th>System for MyCensus 2020</th>
<th>Logistics</th>
<th>Engagement &amp; Collaboration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Streamlining the <strong>strategy for field operation</strong> in line with the timeline adjustment.</td>
<td>Census questionnaire has been approved and being used during trial census. Questionnaire has been distributed to DOSM state offices.</td>
<td>Malaysia Integrated Population Census System (MyIPCS) is a centralised and comprehensive census system that provide a uniform and integrated framework has been developed and in operation.</td>
<td>Storage arrangement in nationwide for keeping census questionnaire and other census materials has been finalised.</td>
<td>Engagement and Collaboration with Stakeholders at State already established.</td>
</tr>
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MYCENSUS 2020 CHALLENGES

Re-adjustment of Census schedule

COVID-19 pandemic

Adjustment in Enumeration Mode
Optimising the usage of e-Census and telephone interview (CATI) as the main mode of response

Challenges in recruitment of census enumerators
Possible COVID-19 infection among census enumerators

Community reluctance & fear
Non-cooperation of the public due to fear of COVID-19

Assuring the safety of the staff and public as top priority
MYCENSUS 2020 CHALLENGES

Challenges in Data Quality

- Population movement i.e. migration
- Moving away from census date
- Students stayed at home instead on campus
MITIGATING MEASURES AMIDST COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- **Coordination among various agencies** at the national and state levels:
  - ✓ Federal Government
  - ✓ State Government
  - ✓ Local Authorities
  - ✓ Government Link Corporations
  - ✓ Private corporations
- Realignment of **census budget** for COVID-19 emergency procurement such as face masks and hand sanitiser
- Extend and adjust the **recruitment process** and timeline in most affected areas
- **Leveraging technology** for training and Post Enumeration Survey (PES) by using online, system (MySUL) and telephone
- Work closely with **National Security Council and Ministry of Health** in relating to updates and necessary actions to be taken
- Produce special **Standard Operating Procedure** on conducting field operations
Leveraging Administrative Data and Analytics Technology

- Staggered workflow with multiple phases and hybrid approach in census operations
- e-Census and CATI reduced the impact of scaled down field operations
- Use of Administrative data
  - Basic data on population compiled from administrative records
  - Data Quality control: Consistency checks with available information
- Use of Analytics Technology
  - Google Maps: Data tapping to complement existing data collection
  - Train model for machine learning
- Multi-platform publicity on MyCensus 2020 with digital platforms and conventional methods
- Enhancing co-operation with public and private agencies in ensuring the success of MyCensus 2020
WAY FORWARD: MSAR AND MSPR

**Malaysia Statistical Address Register (MSAR)**

**BUILDING UNIT ADDRESS**
Information on the address of the Building Unit including Business Organisations, Residences, Buildings / Public Facilities and landmarks

**Malaysia Statistical Population Register (MSPR)**

**INDIVIDUAL INFORMATION**
Gather information on the Malaysian population covering demographic, educational, economic, social and individual characteristics

**Importance of MSPR**
- Next census can be carried out on a small scale
- To update MSPR information frequently using administrative data
- Information in MSPR can be used for:
  - Distribution of Aid
  - Local population information for the development of public facilities
WAY FORWARD

1. Assess risks and opportunities and put in place corresponding actions or mitigating measures.

2. Establish protocols when COVID-19 affects a community or any of the census enumerators.
THANK YOU

BANCI MALAYSIA