



# **URBANIZATION & URBAN GROWTH ISSUES FOR THE NEXT MALAYSIA CENSUS 2010**

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MALAYSIA**

**24<sup>th</sup> Population Census Conference,  
25-27 March 2009, Hong Kong, China**



# Contents

- **Purpose**
- **Definition of Urban Area**
- **Analysis of the 2000 Urban Definition**
- **Comments and Implication**
- **Recommendations**
- **Conclusion**



## PURPOSE

**This paper is prepared to notify:**

- i. The urban definition which will be used in the next Malaysia 2010 Census; and**
- ii. The effects from the use of this urban definition towards previous Census data.**



## DEFINITION OF URBAN AREAS IN 2000 CENSUS

The 2000 Population and Housing Census had defined urban areas as follows:

Gazetted areas and their adjoining built-up areas with a combined population of 10,000 persons or more at the time of census.

Built-up areas were defined as areas contiguous to a gazetted area and had at least 60 per cent of their population (aged 10 years and above) engaged in non-agricultural activities as well as 30 per cent of the housing units having modern toilet facilities.



Table below shows that from the Census 1970 to 2000, the urban population in Malaysia increase almost three times from 26.8 per cent to 62.0 per cent.

### Level of urbanization, Malaysia 1970 - 2000

Region	Year			
	1970	1980	1991	2000
Peninsular Malaysia	28.8	39.1	54.3	65.2
Sabah	16.5	20.6	33.7	48.9
Sarawak	15.5	18.0	37.5	48.0
<b>MALAYSIA</b>	<b>26.8</b>	<b>35.8</b>	<b>50.7</b>	<b>62.0</b>



The number of urban centres increased from 72 in 1980 to 170 in 2000.

**Urban centres (towns) by population class size, Malaysia, 1980-2000**

Population Class size	1980		1991		2000	
	Number of urban centres	% Distribution of urban population	Number of urban centres	% Distribution of urban population	Number of urban centres	% Distribution of urban population
500,000 and over	1	20	1	13	4	23
150,000 – 499,999	8	36	14	41	23	42
75,000 – 149,999	6	14	15	19	13	10
50,000 – 74,999	8	11	9	6	14	6
25,000 – 49,999	10	7	23	9	36	9
10,000 – 24,999	39	13	67	12	80	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>100</b>



# ANALYSIS OF THE 2000 URBAN DEFINITION

## 1. Population Age

- # Closely relates to the employment sector of the population
- # Using population aged 10 years and above

### Findings from 2000 Census :

10 – 14 yrs : 2,411,581 persons and  
only 30,448 (1.3%) were employed

Total employed population : 9.2 million and  
only 0.3% of the population aged 10-14 yrs were employed



## 2. Modern toilet facilities

Based on the 2000 Census, the 30 per cent modern toilet facility in housing units feature is a sub-set to the 60 per cent of population engaged in non-agricultural activities feature. This literally means that, when the feature 60 per cent of the population engaged in non-agricultural activities is met, the 30 per cent modern toilet facility in housing units feature is also met simultaneously. Based on information from the 2000 Census, the number of living quarters (LQs) with modern toilet facilities, by stratum is as follows:

Stratum/pop. size	Modern toilets (%)
1 (75,000 +)	90
2 (10,000-74,999)	86
3 (1,000-9,999)	73
4 (<1,000)	26



### 3. Urban Profile Study (UPS)

- A total of 170 towns based on 2000 Census were studied by The Town & Country Planning Department (TCPD)
- Using 15 criteria to determine the urban boundaries are based on:
  - i. The national and local policies (6 policies)
  - ii. The population (2 aspects)
  - iii. Main land use trends (4 aspects)
  - iv. Accessibility (3 aspects)
- Areas outside those identified boundaries were considered non-urban areas.



## The UPS findings

- The results from the UPS showed a total urban population in the Peninsular Malaysia of only 9,055,905 persons or 51.3%, as against 11,498,790 persons or 65.2% in the 2000 Census.
- The significant difference from these two concepts was 2,442,885 persons or 13.8%
- The UPS calculation was based only on the Peninsular Malaysia population of 17,649,266 persons.
- A much lower urban area population was recorded with the UPS urban definition compared to that based on the 2000 Census definition.



## COMMENTS AND IMPLICATION

- Effect on the 2010 Census preparatory work that being carried out by the Department of Statistics, Malaysia (DOSM)
  - Updating EB boundaries begun since January 2007
  - Sept 2008 updating EB boundaries reached 49.6%
  - Sept 2008 TCPD submitted the urban boundary drafts will effect cost for readjustment the boundaries and timeline
- The UPS only covers Peninsular Malaysia with no plans for implementation in Sabah & Sarawak
- The UPS urban definitions physical by nature, wholly taking into account urban services
- Urban population in UPS is far below that of the 2000 Census. If the UPS definition is applied – will seriously impact time series data of social economic studies undertaken by the DOSM especially survey which related with urban & rural analysis.



## RECOMMENDATIONS



The recommendation of urban definition to be used in the 2010 Census as follows:

Gazetted areas with their adjoining built-up areas which had a combined population of 10,000 persons or more at the time of the 2010 Census or specific development areas which can be identified with a population of at least 10,000 persons and at least 60 per cent aged 15 years and above engaged in non-agricultural activities.

Built-up areas were defined as areas situated next to gazetted areas which had at least 60 per cent of their population (aged 15 years and above) engaged in non-agricultural activities.

Specific development areas were developing areas that can be identified and are separated from any gazetted or built-up area by more than 5 km and had a population of at least 10,000 persons, with 60 per cent (aged 15 years and above) engaged in non-agricultural activities.



## **The changes covered were as follows:**

- i. The age of population is increased from 10 years to 15 years and above;**
- ii. Inclusion of specific development areas; and**
- iii. The modern toilet facility feature for the housing units has been drop.**



## CONCLUSION



The urban definition suggested by the TCPD had taken into account the definition by DOS in the previous Census. The addition of new criteria such as density and urban facilities are actually extensions to the original definition. These add-ons appear to be more physical in nature.

The urban definition used by the TCPD covers only Peninsular Malaysia, as such excluding Sabah, Sarawak and the Federal Territory of Labuan. This implies that there will be two urban definitions in the event the UPS definition is used for Malaysia. In view of this, for the implementation of the 2010 Census, it would be practical for the Department to maintain the existing definition, taking into account the amendments as mentioned in the previous slides.



“Thank You”

