

KERATAN AKHBAR

TARIKH : 15 FEBRUARI 2022
AKHBAR : THE SUN
MUKA SURAT : 2

Data to help create senior citizen policy

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SHAH ALAM: Statistics showing an increase in the number of senior citizens aged 65 and above will help the government to draft policies to deal with Malaysia's aging population.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Economy) Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed said according to the 2020 Population and Housing Census, 6.8% or 2.2 million of the nation's 32.4 million population are aged 65 and above, compared with 5% or 1.4 million in 2010.

"This is an important finding in the context of the Malaysian Family. We are fast becoming an aging nation," he told a media conference yesterday.

He said it is projected that by 2030, the number of senior citizens aged 65 and above will be 10.3% or 4.1 million people.

He added that the issue of an aging population is a global phenomenon and this would have an influence on investment in health, education and housing.

Mustapa said while seniors increased in numbers, there was a decline in the average population growth rate in 2020 to 1.7% compared with 2.1% recorded in the 2010 census.

"The data also shows that the fertility rate and the number of children are declining, causing the average household size to decrease." - Bernama