

**NEW YEAR MESSAGE 2015**  
**BY**  
**CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA**

# Assalamualaikum wm. wb./Salam Sejahtera/Salam 1Malaysia/Salam Statistik

## Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Alhamdulillah, with the grace of Allah the Almighty we have brace through year 2014. I wish a **"Happy New Year"** to each and everyone in the Department of Statistics, Malaysia, *stakeholders and users of statistics*.
2. The year 2014 is a challenging year for the nation and Malaysian citizen. On 8 March 2014, Malaysia was shocked by the mysterious disappearance of MH370 and as the search of MH370 is yet to be resolved, the nation was again saddened by the incident of MH17 being shot down in east Ukraine on 17 July 2014. This will remain in the dark history of Malaysia and will be remembered forever. As 2014 coming to its end, major floods hit the east coast and a few other states. During these tribulations, the togetherness can be seen as Malaysian of all races shared the grief of family members and friends of the crew members and passengers of MH370 and MH17 as well as extended their assistance to the flood victims. This togetherness contributes to the success and prosperity of our country.
3. In 2014, the Department has successfully carried out two main activities; Census of Distributive Trade (CDT) that started in March 2014 and ended in September, 2014 and the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2014 that began in January 2014 till December 2014. The main objective of CDT is to obtain comprehensive and detail information on the structure of distributive trade. This information will be used in the formulation of economic plans and policies such as monitoring the Small and Medium Enterprises Master Plan and as benchmark for the rebasing of Distributive Trade and rebasing of Gross Domestic Products Indices. Statistics obtained from CDT can also be used by economists, academicians, private sector and individuals in planning their business developments.

4. The objective of HIES, on the other hand, is to compile information on income pattern, to identify the poor; to obtain the level of basic amenities enjoyed by poor households; to assist the government in planning and monitoring the country's development plans; to collect information on the level and households' expenditure pattern on various goods and services for Consumer Price Index (CPI); and updating the weights of CPI.
5. The Department continued to produce new statistical products that will strengthened the indicators for policy formulation of the nation's economic development. One of the new products is Index of Services that was disseminated as limited circulation in May 2014. This Index comprise of 11 services subsectors: Distributive Trade; Finance & Insurance; Information and Communications; Transportation & Storage; Food & Beverages; Properties; Professionals; Private Health; Private Education; Lodging and Arts as well as Entertainment and Recreation. For the first time, starting 2014, Quarterly Employment Survey is conducted. This survey, which adopts the establishment approach, will produce statistics on labour demand and creation of new jobs in the economy.
6. In terms of statistical service, the Department continued to enhance its delivery system. The interactive database, Malaysia External Trade Statistics that could be accessed through the Department's portal is enhanced with detailed trade statistics up to HS 6-digits and SITC 5-digits. The new enhanced METS is available starting September 2014.
7. The Department's portal is the main medium for the dissemination of statistics and will continue to be enhanced in tandem with current development and technology. The portal is upgraded with user friendly design, new addition of data visualisation, ticketing system for feedbacks and other better features.
8. As an effort to enhance data communications, the Department continued to enhance its engagement with various parties, namely the respondents who provide the data, stakeholders that use the data and the media who disseminates data to the public. The Sessions with repondents at state

level in 2014 focused on two main activities; HIES and CDT whilst several sessions were held with stakeholders from various agencies and analysts. The Department has also participated and gave briefings in workshops organised by other agencies. For three years in a row, the Department has organised Media Appreciation Session and the Department took this opportunity to brief the media on its statistical product and services. For this year's session, briefing on **e-Services** and National Accounts income approach were given.

9. Innovative and creative culture is continuously enlivened and the ultimate was the Innovative and Creative Convention (KIK Convention). Two groups were nominated to participate in the Prime Minister's Department KIK Convention and Q Stats won second place. The Department also won the Montage Competition, finalist of the best PTJ for the Federal Territory State Office and *e-Services* obtained Bronze Award for Non ICT Category whilst three officers were awarded the Excellence Service Medal. A remarkable achievement! Creative and innovative staffs will ensure that the Department remains relevant and ultimately contribute to realising the vision of the Department **“To become a leading statistical organisation internationally by 2020.”**
10. In the efforts to encourage analysis and research activities, every officer has the opportunity to present his/her technical papers in the Technical Paper Presentation Session and the sixth session was held on 29 - 30 October 2014. I sincerely hope that the technical papers can be upgraded to the quality of articles fit for journal, published and referred to by the researchers.
11. Year 2014 saw the Department extending its strategic alliance with institutions of higher learning with the signing of three memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia on 8 April 2014, Universiti Utara Malaysia on 19 September 2014 and Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia on 5 December 2014. Through these MoUs, the universities were provided weighted micro datasets for selected surveys and censuses.

It is hoped that the micro data will instigate more research by the institutions and the students have the opportunity to use the micro data for their academic research.

12. To improve further the cooperation with the agency that provides data to the Department , courtesy visits were made to the National Registration Department and Royal Customs Department. At the same time, I also received courtesy visits from Malaysia Productivity Corporation, Khazanah Nasional Berhad and Biro Tatanegara in relation to their data needs. The strategic alliance with such agencies will be enhanced particularly in view of obtaining quality secondary data for the compilations of statistics.
13. Year 2014 was the last year for implementing the Strategic Plan 2010–2014. Alhamdulillah, the effective monitoring of the activities stipulated in the plan resulted with commendable achievements where most of the activities were completed earlier than the targeted date. The formulation of the next Strategic Plan 2015-2020 started in early 2014. The plan took into consideration the changes in the environment among others demographics changes, high literacy rates, the functions of social media, privacy, the need to modernise data collections and to strenghten coordination role. The plan will be completed in Mac, 2015 and it is the responsibility of all of us in the Department to ensure that the plan will be executed successfully. Following this, the Information Communication Technology Strategic Plan and ILSM Strategic Plan will be formulated in 2015.
14. For the first time, the Regional Statistics Conference with the theme Statistical Science for a Better Tomorrow was successfully organised on 16 - 19 November with strategic collaboration of International Statistical Institute (ISI), Bank Negara Malaysia and Department of Statistics, Malaysia. Such organisation, besides potraying good image, it gives invaluable experience to the Department for organising similar or bigger events in the future.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

15. It is undeniable that the statistics produced by the Department assist the nation in charting its development. Insyallah, in May 2015, Malaysia will open a new chapter with the 11th Malaysia Plan (RMK11). This is the last Malaysia Plan towards achieving the status of High Income Advanced Economy in 2020.
16. Thus, in order to achieve the developed nation status and continuous prosperity, statistics play an important role in every policy and pertinent decisions of the government. Every policy developed uses integrity and reliable statistics to ensure the direction undertaken has high value add and is visionary. As we are all aware, National Transformation Policy comprise Government Transformation Programme, Political Transformation Programme, Community Transformation Programme, Social Transformation Programme and Fiscal Transformation Programme introduced by the government so as to achieve the goal of high income nation are supported by quality, integrity and timely statistics. The role and cooperation of all parties to the Department are of the utmost importance in fulfilling the requirements of policy makers and the community for statistics for effective planning.
17. For the preparation of the RMK11, the Department has proposed the implementation of six high impact projects under economic development budget encompassing Economic Census 2016, *Smart NEWSS*, Third Phase Development of ILSM, HIES 2016 dan 2019, CDT 2019 as well as Population and Housing Census 2020. The output of this projects will provide new comprehensive benchmark for economic and demography statistics which are the main indicators for planning and development of the country.
18. Moving into 2015, with the importance on continuous development and in tandem with the decision of the Meeting of the Committee on

Government's IT and Internet in March 2014, all agencies were asked to be prepared and to take the necessary actions to identify big data analytics initiatives and data set for open data. Thus, the role of the Department of Statistics, Malaysia in Big Data Analytics has become important.

19. At the international level, big data is discussed at various forum such as the annual meeting of the United Nations Statistical Commission and specific seminars. A few statistical agencies have started to harvest big data focusing on prices data. The Department has to embark on big data so as not to be lagging behind in its development.
20. In supporting national development planning, the Department will introduced the following new products in 2015:
  - a. Quarterly Report on Index of Services;
  - b. Report on CDT 2014 in April 2015;
  - c. Rebasing of Quarterly GDP (2010=100) starting first quarter 2015 in May 2015;
  - d. Report on HIS 2014 in June 2015;
  - e. Report on HES 2014 in July 2015;
  - f. System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA) - Energy Account, July 2015;
  - g. Development of Statistical Data Warehouse (StatsDW) will be completed in December 2015 and Go Live in January 2016; dan
  - h. Malaysia Info Sub module on Children in 2015.
21. Capacity building particularly professionalism in the field of statistics and areas that supported statistical activities will continue to be the main focus and emphasis. In 2015, Institut Latihan Statistik Malaysia will conduct 75 courses of which 30 courses will be opened to other government agencies. The courses for the government agencies are part of the Department's effort to increase statistical literacy and enhance statistical services.

22. The first World Statistics Day (WSC) was launched by the Statistics Commission of the United Nations and the first celebration was on 20 October, 2010. The celebration is an event to recognise the contribution of statisticians around the world, particularly in managing official statistics in each country based on service, integrity and professionalism fundamentals. In 2015, the Department plans to celebrate the second WSC. Activities are being planned to involve the statistical communities in the country.
23. The Department of Statistics, Malaysia also plays an important role at the international level including ASEAN. In November 2015, the Department will be the host for the Fifth Meeting of *ASEAN Community Statistical System* (ACSS). The objective of the meeting is to discuss, coordinate and cooperate with statistical agencies in ASEAN in realising the development of an efficient statistical system at ASEAN level, enhance ASEAN statistics and narrow the statistical development gap amongst ASEAN countries.
24. I hope that the main statistical activities of 2015 will be implemented successfully and bring the Department to greater heights with the cooperation of all parties. I would like to record my appreciation to all respondents that gave their fullest cooperation to the surveys and censuses, stakeholders for supporting the Department's effort and to all in the Department for their contributions in producing integrity and reliable data.

**Happy New Year 2015**

Thank you.

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1 JANUARY 2015**