



**FULL TEXT – NEW YEAR MESSAGE SPEECH 2023
BY CHIEF STATISTICIAN OF MALAYSIA**

1. INTRODUCTION

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and greetings to all.

BISMILLAHIRAHMANIRAHIM.

***ALHAMDULILLAHHIR RABBIL A'ALAMIN WASSALATUWASSALAM MUALA
ASHRAFIL AMBIA IWALMURSALIN WA'ALA ALIHI WASAHBIHI AJMAIN***

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

1.1 First of all, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Allah SWT for His permission and grace, all of us are still given the opportunity to step forward to 2023. Thank you for the inspiration that has been given during 2022. I hope that everyone in the Department of Statistics Malaysia will be able to start the year 2023 with great enthusiasm, determination, and commitment to providing opportunities for us to be more successful and outstanding. With the new year 2023, our service as civil servants will begin with a planned work plan that needs to be carried out with full dedication.

2. CHALLENGES OF 2022

2.1 We all know that in 2022, the world is recovering from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, nevertheless we cannot be complacent with new challenges that could lead to the prospect of a global economy going into recession. Various global challenges such as the ongoing international geopolitical tensions between the United States and China and climate change threats such as floods and droughts in some countries have impacted the country's economy related to the import and export of goods and services. Thus, DOSM as the official provider of national data is also affected by this global scenario which requires DOSM to ensure that the data and statistics supplied are accurate and reliable to ensure that the government could use for better decision-making and produce effective policies.



2.2 The environmental challenge is the second biggest challenge in the country after health challenges. The COVID-19 health crisis is not over yet, Malaysia was shocked by the country's worst flood in December 2022 which involved eleven states including the east coast states, Kuala Lumpur, Selangor, Pahang, Negeri Sembilan, Melaka, Kelantan, Perak, Johor, Sabah, Sarawak, and Terengganu. Not only that but this major flood is also exacerbated by the high tide and landslide phenomenon caused by continuous rainfall from 16th to 19th December 2021 and lingers until January 2022. Therefore, once again the DOSM service is required to release statistics to assess the total loss and damage due to floods that hit the country at the end of 2021 and early 2022. In this regard, DOSM conducted a special flood survey conducted on 30th December 2021 until 27th January 2022 which was conducted face-to-face in the affected areas using questionnaires, observation methods, and telephone calls. In addition, DOSM also uses administrative data obtained from various other agencies to enable DOSM to produce more comprehensive reports.

2.3 In addition, DOSM also faces challenges at the production stage of products and services that have been scheduled especially for major projects implemented by DOSM such as the Population and Housing Census of Malaysia 2020 (Banci Malaysia). The issuance of the Census Key Findings Report is the main challenge of DOSM staff in ensuring that each report that has been promised to the government and the people should be completed within 4 months from the closing date of the Banci Malaysia on 31st October 2021 which includes reports for 16 States with 160 administrative districts and reports for the whole of Malaysia. Alhamdulillah, with the tenacity of all DOSM staff who work regardless of the day and time tirelessly, finally the Malaysian Population and Housing Report 2020 was launched on 14th February 2022 at Management & Science University (MSU) Shah Alam and officiated by the former YAB Prime Minister of Malaysia at that time. In addition, on the initiative and persistence of DOSM to bring statistics up to the granular level, DOSM has taken the challenge of issuing a report of Subnational Statistics of the State Assembly involving reports for 222 parliaments and 600 State Legislative Assembly. To ensure that this report is widely covered, a Launching Ceremony of the DUN Subnational Statistics



Publication was launched at Dewan Bitara, MARA Junior Science College (MRSM), Jeli, Kelantan on 29th May 2022.

3. DOSM'S ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2022

Ladies and gentlemen,

3.1 In spite of these challenges, I am deeply moved by the hard work and determination of all DOSM staff in delivering their responsibilities and preparing the assigned task that led to the success of DOSM throughout 2022. This is a testament to the commitment and quality of work of DOSM staff, who together made the Government's key policies a success, especially those that were agendas in the 12th Malaysia Plan. I am delighted with this achievement. I hope that this momentum of excellence could continue in 2023.

3.2 Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to proudly share the achievement of the tasks and responsibilities entrusted to the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) by the Government throughout 2022 which has made DOSM remain relevant until now after 73 years of DOSM's establishment. Among the milestones and achievements of DOSM throughout 2022 are:

A. WITHIN THE COUNTRY

4. PRODUCTION OF STATISTICAL REPORTS

4.1 In 2022, a total of 1,563 statistical publications were published compared to 2021 with only 524 publications. The breakdown of publications for 2022 is as follows:

- i. 217 publications on a monthly basis;
- ii. 68 quarterly publications;
- iii. 283 publications annually; and
- iv. 995 publications of the Malaysian Population and Housing Census.



4.2 DOSM also shared graphical statistics known as *Stats Alert* which portrays a summary of the Census/survey findings conducted. During 2022, a total of 265 *Stats Alerts* were provided and distributed by email to approximately 5,960 permanent recipients consisting of:

- i. Minister and Deputy Minister;
- ii. Heads of Ministries/Departments/Agencies/Associations/ at Federal and State levels;
- iii. University Lecturers;
- iv. School Principals; And
- v. Local Authorities and Statutory Bodies.

5. STATISTICAL SERVICES

DOSM's active involvement internally and internationally has largely demanded DOSM diversify its international statistical delivery system. The public's acceptance of the importance of statistics in life has greatly changed the workings of DOSM members. Among the DOSM statistical services throughout 2022 are:

i. *Online Services Development*

DOSM is fully aware of the changing needs and wants of the country's data users to ensure that the statistics released can be easily accessed by every user wherever they are, in line with the current technological advances. Hence, DOSM has developed various online statistical delivery systems such as portals (7), Visual Interactive (5), Mobile Applications (2), and Dashboards (13). In 2022 there are 5 new dashboards have been developed as follows:

Dashboard

- ✓ Population and Housing Census of Malaysia Dashboard (MyCenDash)
- ✓ OpenDOSM
- ✓ Kawasanku



- ✓ MyDemography
- ✓ Malaysia Input-Output Table (MyIOT)

The DOSM is extremely proud of its ability to produce such a diverse dashboard and it is translated by having a number of multitasking public service personnel.

ii. Malaysian Household Income & Expenditure Survey and Basic Facilities 2022 (HIES & BA SURVEY 2022)

The HIES & BA 2022 survey which was conducted on 2nd January and lasted until December 2022 is a survey that collects information on household income, expenses, and facilities. The Household Income and Basic Facilities (HIS/BA) survey is conducted with a frequency of twice every five years. As for the note, HIES/BA 2022 is the 20th survey. In total, the survey covers all states and all 160 administrative districts in Malaysia involving an estimated 92,800 residences or approximately 500,000 residents. This is to enable all information either related to income or expenses to be analysed up to a smaller domain.

iii. Parliamentary and State Assembly Tour Series by the Chief Statistician of Malaysia

The Parliamentary and State Assembly Tour Series was also conducted by the Chief Statistician of Malaysia where the Chief Statistician visited various states during the year for the 2022 Census Key Discovery Briefing and interactive session with YB Chief Minister/ Head of State Government from the states concerned.

iv. MyStats Conference 2022

MyStats 2022 is the 9th conference held on 5th October 2022 with the theme "Facing Uncertainty: Unravelling Recovery Strategies". In conjunction with this conference, online short courses were also organized on 4th October 2022. The MyStats Conference is an annual event jointly organised between the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM), Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM), and the Malaysia Institute of Statistics (ISM) in conjunction with the National



Statistics Day Celebration. The conference was to share new analyses and findings and exchange views and ideas among statisticians such as researchers, statisticians, industry, universities, and data users on the challenges in compiling, using, and disseminating official statistics of the country.

iv. *Hari Statistik Negara (HSN) and Sedekad ILSM Celebration*

Hari Statistik Negara (HSN) celebration on 20th October 2022 is the 6th celebration since its recognition as Hari Statistik Negara in 2015 and was celebrated in conjunction with the Sedekad ILSM celebration of the Institut Latihan Statistik Malaysia (ILSM) in 2022. ILSM which is the right wing of DOSM acts as the human capital development center of DOSM staff who are responsible for developing knowledgeable personnel, especially in the field of statistics as well as fostering personalities with integrity, dynamics, innovation, and high performance.

The HSN celebration also included the Forum Perdana Hal Ehwal Islam entitled "*Nadi Negaraku*" which was held in collaboration with Radio Television Malaysia (RTM) and the Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (JAKIM). The forum was lined up by moderators and panelists specializing in the field of dakwah and the development of the ummah, namely Ustaz Haji Rizal Haji Ramli as moderator and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sharifah Hayati Syed Ismail, Assoc. Prof. Dato' Dr. Mohd Izhar Ariff Mohd Kashim and Imam Muda Asyraf Mohd Ridzuan as panelists. DOSM is very pleased that His Majesty (D.Y.M.M.) His Majesty the Sultan of Perak Darul Ridzuan has also consented to attend the Forum Perdana Hal Ehwal Islam. A total of 1500 invitees attended the inaugural forum. In addition, the Statistical Carnival was also held at ILSM during the HSN Celebration 2022. Various exhibitions, sales, demonstrations, and talks were held throughout the Carnival. The Opening Ceremony of the Statistical Carnival 2022 was officiated by YBhg. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, former Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Economy). About 5000 visitors from around Perak and nearby areas attended the carnival.



The collaboration of HSN 2022 involves various parties such as DOSM, our strategic partners such as SME Bank, SOCSO, IPT such as Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI), and Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM), Perak State Agencies and Local Authorities (PBT).

iv. *Sukan Statistik Kebangsaan 2022*

DOSM is also active in organizing sports and leisure activities among DOSM staff to ensure the achievement of work-life balance and health for each of its members. Thus, DOSM has held the 13th *Sukan Statistik Kebangsaan (SSK 2022)* held at Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI), Perak Darul Ridzuan on 27th until 29th October 2022 organised by DOSM Perak with the collaboration of other DOSM in the north area (Perlis, Kedah, and Penang). A total of 29 types of sports games were contested.

B. INTERNATIONAL

6. PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

6.1. DOSM continued to strengthen international engagement in 2022 by participating in 198 international programs involving 1,076 officers. In addition, DOSM was invited as an instructor, panelist, and research paper presenter to 25 expert group meetings, courses, workshops, and international conferences involving 41 officers. DOSM also received courtesy and study visits from delegations of other national statistical bodies and courtesy visits of international institutions which is one of DOSM's commitments to helping other countries improve their capabilities in the production of official national statistics. With this involvement, DOSM is able to be on par with other National Statistical Offices (NSOs) as well as become more responsive in the international statistical community towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030.

6.2 In order to enhance coordination and cooperation among international statistical bodies and promote the provision of organised statistical services, the



Department actively participates and provide views on representing countries and regions in the meetings of the Commission/expert groups/working groups and learning programmes organized internationally especially the supreme world statistical meetings such as United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), Organisation of Islamic Countries Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom), Committee on Statistics of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Governing Council of the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (GC SIAP), ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS), International Statistical Institute World Statistics Congresses (ISI WSC), International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS) and statistical agencies under the auspices of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).

6.3 DOSM's active contribution and involvement in the highest meetings in the international arena can be evidenced by increased membership in the expert group as a reference expert among the international statistical community. In 2022, DOSM was recognized as a member of 53 Committees, Expert Groups, Working Groups, and Associations at the international level. Among them, DOSM has been recognized as a member of GC SIAP for the 2022-2024 term where Malaysia has received encouraging votes from Asian and Pacific member countries and subsequently was appointed as Chairman of the 18th Session of the GC 2022. In addition, as a result of active involvement and contribution, Malaysia through DOSM was appointed as chairman and vice chairman of commission meetings and expert groups established under international statistical organizations, particularly in the ASEAN and Asia Pacific regions. Among them is the Chairman of the Working Group on System of National Accounts (WGSNA), 2021-2022; Co-Chairman of the Regional Steering Group (RSG) for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in Asia and the Pacific, 2015-2024; Co-Chairman of Steering Group for the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics (RPES), 2020-2022; and Vice Chairman of 7th Bureau of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics, 2020-2022. In addition, DOSM also continues to channel expertise and commitment in expert groups such as Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) representing the South-Eastern Asia region 2021-2023; UN Expert Group on Population and Housing Census



2021 – now; Members of the International Comparison Governing Board Program represent the Asia region, 2021-2024; and Inter-Agency Expert Group (IAEG) on UNdata portal, 2021 - now.

6.4 In line with DOSM's commitment to capacity building in the international arena, Malaysia through DOSM signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) in 2020 in New York. The MoU aims to foster the capacity building of OIC member states through the sharing of expertise, experience, and best practices in the form of technical assistance, training courses, and study visits. Through MoU (2020-2022), DOSM has contributed expertise for the organization of courses, seminars, workshops, and meetings under the Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme (SESRIC).

7. COMMUNICATION AND COOPERATION OF STATISTICS

7.1. DOSM has always emphasised communication among data users and society through various mediums, especially social media, namely Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Youtube. Bilateral strategic cooperation between DOSM and agencies and private entities within and outside the country is welcomed through the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Such cooperation has been initiated since 2013 and until 2022, 38 MoUs as compared to 34 MoUs in 2020 have been sealed. In 2021, 3 MoUs were signed with Halal Development Corporation Berhad (HDC), the Companies Commission of Malaysia (SSM), and Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM). Meanwhile, in 2022, 3 MoUs participated, namely University Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), Asia Pacific University (APU), and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM).

7.2. In addition, statistical literacy programs offered by DOSM aim to foster a need for statistics in students at universities and colleges. Throughout 2022, DOSM has promoted this initiative via online programs. These programs are expected to provide better exposure to students to the vision, mission, and functions of DOSM as well as provide information on DOSM products and services, data collection methods as well



as disclosure of the importance of education that students are involved in in the socio-economic development of the country.

7.3 DOSM also upholds the principle of openness to the public which always welcomes courtesy visits from other government agencies, industry, and NGOs who wish to obtain further information on the statistics produced by DOSM. During the year 2022, DOSM has received a total of 52 Courtesy Visits from various parties seeking technical advice in the field of statistics.

8. THE STRENGTHENING OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM (SNSS)

8.1 The Strengthening of the National Statistical System (SNSS) is led by the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) which acts as the Central Agency for statistical services. This SNSS initiative has been supported by the Government which is committed to constantly strengthening the country's ability to produce statistics relevant to the country's development needs. This initiative coincides with a shift in the ability to make quality decisions and encourage innovation toward a new dimension to the Malaysian Statistical System. The implementation of SNSS is also aimed at preparing and enhancing Malaysia's existing statistical system to meet the complexities of the environment and the challenges that are dynamic in the present and for the future.

8.2 Since data is being recognised as a national asset, data management needs to be well implemented in order to provide a significant return to the country in the form of information that can provide a guideline towards the achievement of the country's policy goals and vision. Therefore, in line with the expected success of the SNSS, the country will benefit from the impact of high success on the country's statistical delivery system which will be achieved by the arming of all relevant entities under the Malaysian Statistical System.



9. DOSM'S WISHES AND HOPE IN 2023

9.1. As we move into 2023, the new year certainly brings new challenges that we have to face together. To ensure that DOSM continues to be progressive and inclusive in charting the direction towards a more dynamic future and facing the world of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), DOSM has developed a strategy in the Department of Statistics Malaysia Strategic Plan 2021-2025 to become the "Leader of Statistical Services for Universal Wellbeing". The strategic plan for this five (5) year period is a guideline to ensure that all plans can be realized in line with the current government policies and the needs of the Department's customers as well as the socio-economic landscape and challenges that occur at the national and global levels.

9.2. The determination of the strategic thrust for the period 2021-2025 is guided by the transition in the global socio-economic environment, the national development policy framework, the development of the international statistical community, the information and communication technology revolution, the era of digitization, the empowerment of human capital and the increasing complexity of demand for statistical products and services. In line with the new norm, DOSM is also not left behind in conducting virtual program variations to curb any face-to-face activities while fulfilling economic and social evolution as an input to assist in policy planning and programs to address social and economic crises.

9.3. As a major statistical department of the country, there are various demands of current data requirements from users that need to be resolved. Among the things that need to be revisited are efforts to improve coordination between the Department and the Ministry and improve the country's statistical system. This effort is vital to smooth the implementation of national policies, especially at a time when our country is dealing with unexpected disasters or crises that require data as an indication of problem-solving. Therefore, it is appropriate for all senior DOSM officials to re-evaluate the cooperation that already exists, and immediately enhance strategic cooperation in a holistic manner with other Departments and Ministries. This is due to the fact that



every Ministry/Department/Agency can no longer move in silos and needs to be "facilitating" so that statistical coordination can be implemented effectively.

9.4. As we move into the digital age, the importance of "data" sources as a key guide and reference in performing tasks cannot be denied. Data is now seen as a high-value commodity, which can help the Government make informed decisions in a short time. As we all know, other government departments/agencies also have valuable data dumping, through ICT systems that have been developed at the level of other government departments/agencies themselves. This data, if they can be shared according to the rules, integrated and analysed by big data analytics, will certainly help the Government to better understand the client/customers, thus providing the best service.

9.5. Therefore, DOSM has proposed the establishment of the Strengthening of the National Statistical System, or in short as SNSS which aims to focus on strengthening the governance of the country's statistical system through the mechanism of the Supreme Meeting of the National Statistics and Data Council (NSDC) with the Executive Committee of NSDC. At the state level, the State and District Statistics and Data Council mechanism will continue to be implemented with more comprehensive involvement at the State Government level. The SNSS initiative will be implemented by leveraging strategic collaborations with stakeholders at the Ministry, State Government, various government agencies, and related private sectors. Collective efforts will be given to the success of the SNSS agenda which is to amend the Statistics Act 1965 (Revised 1989), implement the functions of DOSM as the Central Agency for Statistical Services, the appointment of Chief Data Officer (CDO) in the Ministry/Department/Agency in stages, the establishment of the nucleus of the National Data Analysis Centre (NBDAC) and empowering the country's statistical services.



9.6. The challenge of DOSM also in 2023 is how to manage large-cost and high-impact projects such as the Economic Census 2023 and the 2024 Agricultural Census according to the stipulated period and cost, as well as to meet the expectations of stakeholders. Taking into account the current economic situation, certainly, this responsibility is expected to be increasingly challenging. To ensure that these projects can be implemented effectively and responsibly, I urge all Division and State DOSM Directors to actively play their part in ensuring that internal control mechanisms are always in place. This is crucial to ensure that the projects that need to be implemented meet the objectives set, thus having the maximum impact on the targeted group.

10. CONCLUSION

10.1 May each of everyone in the DOSM continue to be vigilant and committed to delivering the best service with greater excellence and integrity. I would like to express my Happy New Year 2023 and would like to express my deepest appreciation to all DOSM staff for their dedication and commitment to fulfilling their trusted task through the spirit of cooperation and thus successfully manifesting DOSM as a global brand internationally.

10.2. Before I end this speech, let me give some verse of the *pantun*;

The soul will be deserted without friends (*Jiwa Akan Sepi Tanpa Teman*),

The heart will die without faith (*Hati Akan Mati Tanpa Iman*),

Today is reality (*Hari ini Adalah Kenyataan*),

Yesterday was a memory (*Semalam Adalah Kenangan*),

Tomorrow is a dream (*Esok Hari Adalah Impian*),

Calm the hearts of all of us (*Tenangkan lah Hati Kita Semua*),

Clear your mind (*Jernihkanlah Fikiran*),

Celebrate the New Year With joy (*Sambutlah Tahun Baru Dengan Gembira*)



STATISTIK NADI KEHIDUPAN

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023

Thank you.

Wabillahi Taufiq Walhidayah Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.