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IRB-Budget

GOOD NEWS IN STORE FOR TAXPAYERS IN 2002 BUDGET, SAYS IRB CEO

IPOH, Oct 12 (Bernama) -- Taxpayers can expect good news when Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tables the 2002 Budget in Parliament next Friday, Inland Revenue Board Chief Executive Officer Datuk Zainol Abidin Abdul Rashid said today.

He said the board had forwarded proposals to the government and it was up to the government whether to accept or reject them.

"You have to wait and see for the Prime Minister's announcement. I think the 2002 Budget will bring many good news for us," he told a media conference after visiting the IRB branch here today.

Zainol Abidin said he believed taxpayers would be satisfied with the budget as the tax collected from them would be used to upgrade infrastructure facilities and speed up development in the country.

Another aspect expected to be given emphasis was improving tax collection methods through new procedures and more effective enforcement, he said.

Zainol Abidin said the board would step up enforcement on vegetable and flower growers as well as ceramic products manufacturers who made false declarations, causing IRB to incur millions of ringgit in losses from uncollected tax.

He said the Ipoh IRB detected a case of a flower grower in Cameron Highlands who made profits totalling RM5.8 million in five years but only paid a small amount in tax after making false declaration.

The flower grower failed to pay tax amounting to RM2.8 million, he said.

In another case, a ceramic products manufacturer, who earned up to RM3 million a year, had to pay RM2.5 million in backdated tax to the IRB, he said.

Zainol Abidin said the Ipoh IRB had detected 67 such cases with backdated tax collected amounting to RM19.2 million.

He also said the branch had settled several big cases, including tax worth RM5.09 million involving taxpayers from the securities industry and RM2.25 million from a couple involved in business.

It had also taken action to declare bankrupt in 44 cases including a VIP who had to pay RM1.63 million in tax to lift the caveat imposed against him, he added.

-- BERNAMA

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