

29/10/2002

Plan to teach students income tax

PUTRAJAYA, Mon. - The Inland Revenue Board has proposed to include a subject on income tax in the school curriculum to make students realise the importance of paying taxes.

The board's chief executive officer, Datuk Zainol Abidin Rashid, said educating the younger generation on income tax would help them understand the importance of paying tax and that it was a social obligation.

He said the proposal was in the planning stage and the board had yet to submit its working paper to the Education Ministry.

Zainol Abidin was speaking at a Press conference after presenting prizes to winners of an essay-writing competition for schoolchildren.

Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Chan Kong Choy, who was present at the function, said tax revenue this year would be more than the RM41.79 billion collected last year but growth may not be as high as the 43.29 per cent registered last year.

"The 43 per cent was a high base, but we will definitely collect more (revenue) this year. We will breach RM41.79 billion," he said.

Zainol Abidin said the corporate and petroleum sectors contributed a combined 80 per cent to tax revenue while the rest came from individuals.

Chan and Zainol presented prizes to the winners of the essay competition. The competition for primary and secondary schools, was jointly organised by the IRB, Education Ministry and Berita Harian. A total of RM180,000 worth of computers and cash were given away yesterday.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who arrived later, posed for photographs with some winners.

The competition was divided into three categories and the winner of the Form Six category was Hazalina Hashim, 18, from SMK Sultan Abdul Jalil, Kluang, Johor.

In the Form Four-Form Five category, Nor Asfarina Abdul Majid, 16, from SMK Putra, Jerneh, Terengganu, emerged the winner while the primary school category winner was Sofhatun Nur Subhi, 12, from SK Bandar Country Homes, Rawang, Selangor.