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MAHATHIR-TAX

TAX COLLECTION IN M'SIA BETTER THAN MOST COUNTRIES, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 27 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said tax collection in Malaysia is better compared to most countries, including some developed nations.

Dr Mahathir, who is also the Finance Minister, said tax collection in the country for income tax, Customs and excise duties, and road tax continued to increase every year due the efficient method of collecting them.

The prime minister, who is retiring on Friday, said some countries were unable to collect taxes because of various obstacles.

Dr Mahathir said the government would continue to raise its efficiency in collecting taxes and ensure that there were no obstacles such as corruption and tax evasion.

Speaking to reporters after the presentation of excellent service awards to employees at the Treasury, which also marked Dr Mahathir's last appearance at a Finance Ministry public gathering here, he said problems related to the abuse of power must be contained.

"I don't believe that there is no nation in this world that doesn't face the same problems. What is important is that our performance is better than most countries, including developed ones," he added.

Dr Mahathir said there were some developed nations which faced the same problems in not being able to fully collect corporate or income taxes because there were ways that taxpayers could use to evade from paying the full amount.

In Malaysia, he said the government had used its resources to the fullest extent to collect taxes but there were some who still resorted to looking for tax loopholes.

Drawing a parallel, he said even the imposition of the death sentence had failed to stop drug trafficking and this meant that there was no foolproof method of ensuring that the government could collect the full amount of taxes. -- BERNAMA

MAD TJ SHY