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'Do more to boost state revenue'

NFC MEETING: Najib tells state govts to take steps to cut outstanding collection

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The National Finance Council (NFC) has called on state governments to ramp up efforts to improve revenue collection.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said this was in view of the outstanding revenue record of more than RM2 billion annually between 2010 and last year.

"If the outstanding (amount) in revenue collection can be reduced by 25 per cent, it means that state revenue can be raised by as much as RM500 million.

"Efforts to reduce the outstanding (amount) will be monitored and reported to NFC," said Najib, who is also Finance minister, after chairing the council's 2015 meeting yesterday.

Present were Second Finance Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Husni Mohamad Hanadzlah, Treasury secretary-general Tan Sri Dr Mohd Irwan Serigar Abdullah, and Deputy Finance Ministers Datuk Ahmad Maslan and Datuk Chua Tee Yong.

Najib said the council urged each state government to review some

measures taken by other states to raise revenue, including imposing different land tax rates, depending on the size of the land, for agriculture projects.

He said NFC had agreed to allocate RM880 million to the State Reserve Fund, with an additional RM240 million for this year and RM110 million for next year.

He said the contribution allocated by the Federal Government to the fund was RM720 million this year, RM580 million (next year) and RM530 million (2017).

Najib said the council received a positive report on the Malaysian Road Record Information System (Marris) allocation from the Federal Government to maintain roads.

"The use of Marris last year was better than the year before.

"In this respect, the council has agreed, starting next year, that the Marris allocation for each state will be based on the states' performance in using the funds given the year before."

On the financial crisis in Greece, he said there would be no systemic risk to Malaysia's economy.

"Nonetheless, we will keep a close watch on the situation there.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak meeting Selangor Menteri Besar Azmin Ali before chairing the National Finance Council's 2015 meeting in Putrajaya yesterday. Pic by Mohd Fadli Hamzah

Najib: Criticism must be constructive

PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak last night said he has never been afraid of accepting criticism.

However, he said, it was important that every criticism hurled at him was constructive.

"The key factor is whether Greece stays in the Eurozone." It was reported that Athens had

ordered banks to shut down temporarily, with the stock exchange closed yesterday and automated

He was speaking at a breaking of fast event with students of institutions of higher learning and teacher education institutions at Seri Perdana here.

Najib and his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, joined 1,700

guests in performing *Maghrib, Isyak and terawih* prayers.

The prime minister said everything undertaken by the government was thought out thoroughly, including the benefits to the people. Bermanu

teller machine withdrawals limited to €60 (RM252) as Greece tries to avert a financial collapse.