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Illegal activities deprived govt of tax money, says Najib

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IRB to ensure optimal tax collection through various proactive initiatives, strategies

by R KAMALAVICINI

THE country is losing a significant amount of tax money due to underground and illegal economic activities, said Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Razak.

The prime minister said such activities must be reduced or totally eradicated in order for the country to continuously prosper.

He said there are taxpayers involved in underground and illegal economy who continuously escape from paying their taxes.

"This is a huge loss for the country. I welcome the Inland Revenue Board's (IRB) initiative to aggressively look into this matter, and ensure optimal tax collection moving forward," the prime minister said at IRB's 21st anniversary celebration in Cyberjaya last night.

Najib said IRB is responsible



Najib (second from right) with IRB chairman Tan Sri Dr Mohd Irwan Serigar Abdullah (third from right) and CEO Datuk Sabin Samitah launching IRB's 21st anniversary celebration at IRB headquarters in Cyberjaya yesterday

Pic by Afif Abd Halim

to ensure optimal tax collection through various proactive initiatives and strategies.

"This year, I set the target for IRB to collect RM127 billion in direct taxes, a target of around 10% of the national gross domestic product. I hope IRB will continue to deliver (its key performance indicators)," he said.

Last year, IRB collected RM114.02 billion in taxes, which made up more than half

of the government's overall revenue for the year.

"Last year, due to the weaker global crude oil prices, the contribution from the petroleum segment has dropped significantly. Otherwise, our tax collection would have been much higher," Najib said.

The prime minister said proper tax payment is essential if the public desire better education, health and transporta-

tion services and facilities, similar to what are available in the developed countries.

"It is our contribution to the nation, not only morally and socially, but also in line with the religious call," he added.

Najib also welcomes IRB's commitment for better tax collection, including the establishment of the aggressive tax collection unit.

The prime minister also

noted that as at Feb 27, IRB processed 8,267,607 applications for 1Malaysia People's Aid this year, a 13.47% increase from 7,154,343 applications received in 2016.

Meanwhile, Najib also launched various IRB products and services including "click e-filing campaign", e-PCB (monthly tax deduction)/e-DATA PCB payment using CIMB Bank Bhd credit card or debit card at IRB counters, and "e-lejar syarikat".

IRB said its "click e-filing campaign" for the 2016 assessment year attracted 34,975 filings as at 5.30pm yesterday. The individual tax filing started on March 1, 2017, for 2016 tax return.

Taxpayers can also submit their BE forms using smartphones and tablets via mobile filing application.

Meanwhile, nine taxpayers were recognised for their continuous commitment.

Among them are Malaysia LNG Sdn Bhd, Putrajaya Holdings Sdn Bhd and Public Bank Bhd.