

# PM lauds IRB's success, discipline in tax collection

**CYBERJAYA:** The Inland Revenue Board (IRB) can maintain a strong performance if it continues upholding standards and discipline in tax collection, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said the board collected RM184.805 billion in direct taxes for 2024, an increase of RM1.465 billion compared with the same period in 2023.

He expressed his admiration for the board's performance in recent years, especially with the introduction of new initiatives such as e-Invoice.

"I am optimistic. Of course, I am impressed with IRB's performance in tax collection.

"In the last few years, particularly last year, I think it has become more organised and structured.

"A new tool, such as the e-Invoice, has been introduced and that has helped.

"I believe that if they can maintain these standards and discipline, they will be able to achieve even better results," he said after the 2025 Revenue Day celebration yesterday.

Anwar said the achievement also reflected the government's efforts to ensure that the ultra-wealthy did not evade their responsibilities.

He added that the board's impressive tax collection was proof that national revenue would continue to rise if governance was strengthened and loopholes that could lead to revenue leakage were consistently addressed.

Anwar also said he had never

used his position as the prime minister to exert pressure on IRB or to show favouritism towards any party in tax collection.

"What does this all mean? It means that we are not giving any room for anyone, especially those at the top, the ultra-wealthy, to evade their responsibilities as citizens.

"I extend my highest appreciation to the IRB because, perhaps for the first time, corporate figures without exception have all fulfilled their responsibility to pay taxes.

"My ministers and I have given our full support, to the point that no one dares to appeal to me. This reflects the integrity of IRB."

Anwar added that within Asean, Malaysia was the

one that grants significant tax exemptions, particularly to ease the financial burden on low-income groups, including exemptions for education and healthcare.

"However, our country is strange. There seem to be more political efforts to protect the ultra-wealthy while they talk about helping the poor in their speeches.

"But where do they think the funds come from? Tax collection does not fall from the sky."

At the same time, Anwar said, taxes should not be a burden, as this would not encourage productivity. He also said the concept of taxation should not be punitive and that a fair framework must be established.

"But in my view, the existing framework for tax collection is sufficient to sustain the system."

## INFO BOX

# RM184.8B

Collected by Inland Revenue Board in direct taxes for 2024