

## OBLIGATIONS

# 'ULTRA-RICH NO LONGER AVOIDING TAX BILL'

PM attributes this to govt's firm backing of IRB in carrying out its duty to collect taxes

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**S**TRONG government support for the Inland Revenue Board (IRB) has led the ultra-rich and individuals with titles to fulfil their tax obligations, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said following his firm backing of the board in carrying out its duty to collect taxes, no one from this group has dared to appeal in an attempt to evade their tax responsibilities.

"Reflecting on my experiences from the 1990s, I encouraged them (IRB) to take action.

"I have also expressed my highest appreciation to the revenue authorities, and this is perhaps the first time that this group, including top corporate figures, has fully met its responsibility to pay taxes," he said at the 2025 Revenue Day celebration yesterday.

Present were Finance Minister II Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan, Public Service Department director-general Tan Sri Wan Ahmad Dahlan Abdul Aziz, Deputy Finance Minister Lim Hui Ying and IRB chief executive officer



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking at the 2025 Revenue Day celebration in Cyberjaya yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

Datuk Dr Abu Tariq Jamaluddin.

Anwar added that this reflected the integrity of the national revenue system and that the actions taken by the board should not be underestimated.

He also said such matters should not be taken lightly, as it has long been common practice for high-ranking individuals to seek assistance from those in power to ease pressure from the IRB.

"Enforcement officers will lack the courage to fulfil their responsibilities if they do not have the support of their leadership.

"For example, if they were to take action against a wealthy and influential figure, such as a Tun or a Tan Sri, they would come under pressure," he said.

Abu Tariq said the IRB audited and investigated 70,702 tax cases in various focused industries, with an additional tax assessment amounting to RM5.5 billion last year.

"The board has also successfully processed all applications

for the government's cash assistance programme in 2024, benefiting 8,685,024 recipients with an allocation of RM6.77 billion.

"We remain committed to continuing our efforts to support the majority of the people, who should benefit from the tax revenues generated by the nation's prosperity."

Abu Tariq said the board remained committed to continuous growth in line with the era of digital transformation and innovation, supporting the government's agenda to build a prosperous, sustainable and competitive nation.

"As such, this year, we will focus primarily on the implementation of e-Invoicing, broadening the tax base, enforcement activities, Tax Corporate Governance, Global Minimum Tax, the self-assessment system for stamp duty, real property gains tax and Labuan business activity tax."

He said the IRB will introduce several new initiatives, including Tekad HASiL 2026-2030.