

IRB AWAITING COURT ORDER ON NAJIB BANKRUPTCY

Ex-PM's application to stay proceedings over RM1.7b tax arrears pending at Court of Appeal

KUALA LUMPUR

THE Inland Revenue Board (IRB) is awaiting instructions from the High Court in its pursuit to declare former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak a bankrupt following his failure to pay RM1.7 billion in income tax arrears.

Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said this was the IRB's current step after Najib's numerous appeals to stay such proceedings.

"The income tax arrears owed by Najib for assessment years 2011 to 2017 have not been settled, involving RM1.7 billion as ordered by the Kuala Lumpur

High Court through a summary judgment in 2020," Anwar said in a written parliamentary reply.

The IRB initiated action to recover the tax arrears through civil proceedings in 2019 and filed a Bankruptcy Notice in 2021.

Najib had filed an application to stay the bankruptcy proceedings at the Kuala Lumpur High Court (Insolvency) to annul the Bankruptcy Notice.

The application was dismissed last year. Najib subsequently filed a notice of appeal against the court's decision again this year.

On Nov 17, the High Court dismissed the appeal. The case is pending at the Court of Appeal.

"IRB's next course of action is case management to obtain further directions at the High Court (Insolvency)," said Anwar.

He was responding to a question by Pang Hok Liong (PH-Labis) on whether the former prime minister had settled his arrears and the actions being taken by the IRB to realise the debts.



Former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak owes the Inland Revenue Board RM1.7 billion for assessment years 2011 to 2017. NSTP PIC

BY HARI ANGGARA