

**Tax revenue up RM22b after leakages plugged, says Najib**  
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**By Lee Wei Lian**

The prime minister said steps were being taken to combat illegal money outflow. — Picture by Choo Choy May

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 21 — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said today the government will collect an additional RM22 billion in taxes this year, RM7 billion more than forecast, thanks to efforts to fight tax evasion.

This comes as Malaysia was ranked fifth in the world for illicit money outflows since the turn of the century.

According to Najib, the Inland Revenue Board's special task force has managed to substantially reduce tax evasion this year.

"We are taking steps to address leakages," he said when asked about the illicit outflows.

Malaysia lost RM150 billion in illicit outflows in 2009, the fourth highest in the developing world, said US-based watchdog Global Financial Integrity (GFI) in a recent report.

GFI had also reported in January that RM930 billion exited Malaysia from 2000 to 2008, the fifth highest in the world, growing from RM71 million to RM218 billion annually during the period.

"The volume of illegal capital flight from Malaysia has come to dwarf legitimate capital inflows into the country in recent years," it said earlier this year.

The Najib administration also introduced the Money Business Services Act, which came into force on December 1.

The new law supports the development of a more dynamic, competitive and professional money services business industry, while strengthening safeguards against money laundering, terrorist financing and illegal activities.

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