

IRB Needs To Optimise Tax Collection, Ensure Good Development Tempo - Najib

CYBERJAYA, March 1 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak wants the Inland Revenue Board (IRB) to optimise tax collection to ensure a good development tempo and a better quality of service for the people.

Najib, who is also Finance Minister, said if the national revenue contracted, it would bring about negative impact.

Citing an example, he said there are countries in Europe which had to borrow from other countries because their people refused to pay taxes and their authorities failed to collect the taxes.

"As such, we should do what we can to continue ensuring that the IRB will be able to make optimal collection of taxes.

"We don't want to have tax evaders or a widespread underground economy to the extent of causing significant loss of revenue to our country," he said at the meet-and-greet event with staff of IRB (Hasilian) in conjunction with the 21st Revenue Day celebration here today.

Najib said the element of fear should be inculcated among the tax evaders, so that they would remember that they could never escape from the IRB.

With the element, the prime minister said he believed the culture of tax paying would be strengthened among the people.

"If only the people realise that this (tax paying) is not just a social and moral responsibility, but also a part of religious teachings.

"When we pay our taxes, we contribute to the country and to the people's wellbeing.

"With this kind of attitude, a country will continue progressing and moving towards greater heights," he said, adding that all efforts to provide quality education, health services and infrastructural development required money.

Last year, the IRB managed to collect RM114 billion in taxes, hence contributed 52.51 per cent to the government's revenue.

Najib also set RM127.7 billion tax collection target as the key performance indicator (KPI) for IRB this year.

Also present at the event was his wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Lee Chee Leong and Treasury secretary-general Tan Sri Dr Mohd Irwan Serigar Abdullah.

At the event, the prime minister also launched six IRB's new programmes, namely the Klik e-Filing Campaign; the Scheduled Tax Deduction e-PCB/e-DATA payment; the tax payment through credit/debit card at the counter; the Company e-Ledger; the Hasil Info Data System (HIDS); and the BE amendment e-application.

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