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# The feel good factor at work

VANES DEVINDRAN

**IRB sees possibility of upward revision of RM130bil target on heels of strong domestic growth**

**KUCHING:** The Inland Revenue Board (IRB) tax collection target of RM130bil this year could be revised upwards.

Chief executive officer Tan Sri Dr Mohd Shukor Mahfar said if past experience was anything to go by, the board anticipated a revision, which it considered normal.

"Last year our collection was around RM125bil in taxes so (with this year's target), there's an increase by RM5 billion.

"I do not know if the Finance Ministry will stick to that figure because from past experience,

normally they would revise upward.

"So I believe there's more expected to be collected," he told reporters after giving a talk at Universiti Utara Malaysia's seminar on good management here yesterday.

He said last year itself, the initial target of RM110bil was revised in September to RM123bil.

He was unable to reveal the amount collected so far but assured that the board was well on track with its target.

On tax defaulters, Mohd Shukor said the figure was on a decrease as the board continued to build awareness of why it was important to pay tax.

"On average, there's a decrease of defaulters.

"In the past, the figure was around 30% but now that has come down to 20% and we will continue to bring the figure down.

"It is all about building the awareness," he explained.

He said the approach taken was to instill a sense of responsibility in every citizen whereby the tax they forked out was a community asset

which would go towards development purposes.

He said the board did not want the people to feel forced but rather preferred inculcating the habit of paying taxes willingly for the progress of the country.

"This is why our tagline for this year is 'Hasil is your feel good partner'. It's a win-win situation and we want them (the people) to realise this," he said.

He said without good revenue, Malaysia would need to borrow elsewhere and if this happened, it would affect the economy of the country.

Citing Greece as an example, he said the country's revenue was insufficient for its development and this led to an economic crisis.

"Our tax collection is going towards non-military use," he said.

Mohd Shukor was confident that it would achieve its target this year because the country's domestic economy was doing very well.

However, he cautioned this was not enough as there must be political stability as well to support business growth.

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**Good advice:** Participants of the seminar listening to Mohd Shukor.