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Taxes payable online now after IRB collaboration

BY RAHIMY RAHIM

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KUALA LUMPUR: Taypayers can now settle their dues online following the Inland Revenue Board's (IRB) collaboration with 13 banks and Pos Malaysia.

Its chief executive officer Tan Sri Dr Mohd Shukor said the IRB had taken several initiatives to make it easier for Malaysians to pay their taxes through e-payment but many still preferred to pay the traditional way.

"In 2011, we managed to collect a total of RM1.6bil via electronic payment, which made up for only 2% of our total collection.

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124bil," he told reporters after launching the promotion of electronic services with bank agents, at its headquarters here, yesterday.

Financial institutions which provide the online payment facilities include Public Bank, Affin Bank, CIMB Bank, Hong Leong Bank, Bank Islam, CitiBank, Alliance Bank, RHB Bank, OCBC Bank, Bank Rakyat and HSBC Bank.

Mohd Shukor said many Malaysians had the wrong perception when IRB requested for their banking details, adding that it was meant to make it more convenient to refund or settle their tax payments.

"That is why about RM103.3bil or 98% of the collections were made at our counters all over the country while in 2012, it was still high at RM95.72bil or 79%," he said, adding that the number of people using e-filing for income tax returns reached three million in August.

He said that the IRB had also strengthened cyber security on its website following virus attacks aimed at providing fake links to Internet users.

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"We realise the importance of increasing our cyber security to ensure users are not duped," he said.

Asked about the number of tax defaulters, Mohd Shukor said over the past 10 years, the figure had dropped from 30% to about 20% this year.

"I believe that initiatives such as this will help lower the number of people who try to avoid paying tax.

"We are working hard to identify the cases and at the same time raise awareness to ensure that more people pay their taxes," he said.

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