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IRB officers to go after tax dodgers

BY STEPHANIE LEE

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KOTA KINABALU: Inland revenue officials will be knocking on the doors of errant taxpayers in Sabah over three days from Thursday.

Many of them are likely to be business operators, said to be among the worst tax dodgers in the state.

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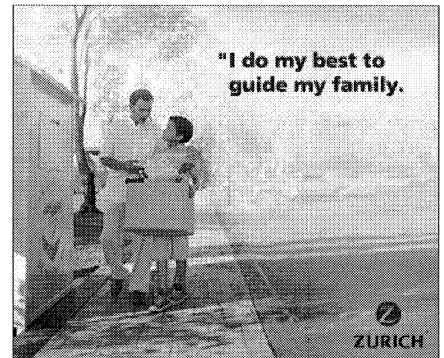
Siti Mariam Che Ayub said the IRB would be serving 604 notices of tax arrears, estimated to be around RM8mil, to individuals as well as business operators.

"We will be going to houses and business premises for this," she told reporters after launching the *Ops Mesra Hasil* drive to encourage taxpayers to voluntarily pay their taxes.

Dr Siti Mariam said Sabah was the second state, after Penang in May, to carry out the campaign.

"It is a friendly approach where board officials meet prospective taxpayers to create more awareness on the need to pay taxes," she said, adding that the tax payment rate among urban Sabahans was about 75% while the rate in rural areas was still not clear as no study had been carried out there.

During the three-day operations, some 200 IRB officials will traverse through 16 areas, largely around Kota Kinabalu, as well as places such as Penampang, Tuaran, Menggatal, Papar and Lok Kawi.



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