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# 'Tax laws must apply equally'

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## E-invoicing helps ensure all citizens meet their obligations, says PM

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**CYBERJAYA:** Stating that tax laws must be applied equally, the Prime Minister described it as unfair that ordinary workers pay taxes through their income while the wealthy conceal their income through transaction layers and accounting tricks.

Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim referenced the e-invoicing system as an important instrument to uphold justice, detect non-compliance and ensure everyone fulfils their responsibilities.

"Fairness in the taxation system is a pillar of civilisation and a key aspiration of this administration," he said at the Inland Revenue Board's Innovation and Integrity Day celebration here yesterday.

His speech was read by Finance Minister II Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan.

Anwar said that e-invoicing is not meant to burden the people or introduce new taxes, but to ensure all parties fulfil their obligations.

As of Nov 2, a total of 2.14 billion e-invoices had been submitted by 269,900 taxpayers.

Through enhanced compliance efforts, the Prime Minister said more than 97,000 taxpayers had voluntarily submitted tax returns for previous years, with tax payable amounting to RM1.68bil.

"E-invoicing helps preserve fairness in the taxation system through ensuring transparent business transactions and detecting any instances of non-compliance," he said.

He also urged LHDN personnel to take firm action against deliberate tax evasion.

"However, continue exercising discretion, in accordance with the law, towards taxpayers who require assistance and guidance," he said.




**Well done:** Anwar giving out an award to Team Media Hasil Johor. With him are LHDN chief executive officer Datuk Abu Tariq Jamaluddin (left), Amir Hamzah (fourth from right) and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Dr Shamsul Azri (third from right).
— SAMUEL ONG/The Star

Anwar added that while technology brings new progress, it cannot replace human values.

"The latest measures taken to improve the tax system are crucial but we cannot leave the decision making solely to technology. There must be a human touch," he said.

The Prime Minister also said 2027 is expected to remain challenging amid global economic uncertainty.

He cited how prolonged conflicts in the Middle East, supply disruptions and energy price pressures as well as the risk of extreme weather due to the El Nino phenomenon could affect the cost of living and people's wellbeing.

In light of this, Anwar said Budget 2027 has mobilised RM510bil in resources, including RM459.8bil in Federal Government expenditure, to sustain development, strengthen economic resilience and safeguard the people.

"Fair and effective revenue collection is crucial to achieving these objectives," he added.

He also reminded LHDN personnel to always keep in mind the people who are at the heart of every policy and action taken.

"Carry out your responsibilities not only with integrity but also with compassion, wisdom and a deep appreciation of human values," he said.

Anwar, who arrived later, then presented Tax Governance Certificates to several companies, including Tenaga Nasional Berhad and Malayan Banking Berhad.

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