

KERATAN AKHBAR

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Govt working to boost revenue, says Rafizi

MULTI-PRONGED STRATEGIES

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PUTRAJAYA: The government is working on multi-pronged strategies to boost Malaysia's revenue while ensuring efficient management of public spending.

Economy Minister Rafizi Ramli said that the government was pursuing three strategies, with strengthening the country's fiscal position being one of them.

Rafizi, who received a courtesy visit from Media Prima Bhd senior management led by group chairman Datuk Seri Syed Hussian Aljunid at his office, here, on Tuesday, said fiscal position was a function of revenue and spending.

"For example, this ministry is responsible for long-term development expenditure. We must make sure that the delivery and cost efficiency of each government project is maximised. That's how you save money.

"Prime Minister Datuk Seri An-

war Ibrahim said we can save at least RM10 billion by cutting wastages.

"By prioritising spending, we will strengthen our fiscal position in the immediate term."

He said the second strategy was finding ways to increase revenue collection.

"But I think this will take a bit longer as the impact is much bigger in the sense that we have to balance between defending the right sectors and making sure that whatever we do does not slow down the growth trajectory."

Rafizi said the third strategy was to restructure the country's economic activities to boost income.

"We have been talking about the middle income trap for a long time. We need to upgrade the economy to have more high-value services and companies so



Economy Minister Rafizi Ramli with Media Prima group chairman Datuk Seri Dr Syed Hussian Aljunid (right) and New Straits Times Press group managing editor Datuk Ahmad Zaini Kamaruzzaman (left) during the media group's courtesy visit to the former's office in Putrajaya on Tuesday. PIC BY AIZUDDIN SAAD

that people can earn more. That will subsequently contribute to the national revenue."

On the national debt, Rafizi said it could be reduced by strengthening the country's fiscal position.

"The government is not in a state of desperation. We just need to change the country's financial management from now.

"There are things that may not

be comfortable, there are things that are less popular and there are things that require change at the government level.

"We see this as a necessity because the national debt has reached RM1.5 trillion," he said, referring to Anwar's statement that Malaysia's national debt, including liabilities, had reached RM1.5 trillion.

The Media Prima delegation in-

cluded the New Straits Times Press (M) Bhd group managing editor Datuk Ahmad Zaini Kamaruzzaman, Media Prima Television Networks and Primeworks Studios chief executive officer Datuk Khairul Anwar Salleh, Media Prima Omnia chief operating officer Mohd Efendi Omar and group corporate communications general manager Azlan Abdul Aziz.