

Customs' gross revenue hits RM55b

PROACTIVE STEPS:

Dept handled 566 tax-related cases involving RM490m

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THE Customs Department has collected RM54.9 billion in gross revenue as of Sept 30, said Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Lee Chee Leong.

Lee said the department had handled 566 tax-related cases involving RM489.6 million from proactive measures and operations.

"The department will continue to play an important role in curbing smuggling activities that result in revenue leakages," he said at the soft launch of *Royal Customs Malaysia Encyclopedia*

here yesterday.

On the Goods and Services Tax (GST), Lee said the public was confused by certain quarters who took advantage of initial uncertainties in its implementation.

"However, after awareness and publicity programmes including talks and briefings on GST, the public has realised that the system is necessary for the country's growth and development," Lee said.

Customs director-general Datuk Seri Khazali Ahmad was confident that the RM39 billion target for GST collection this year was achievable.

"We have collected RM29.5 billion and are moving towards the target.

"We are going after tax evaders," Khazali said at a press conference

after the event.

On the *Royal Customs Malaysia Encyclopedia*, Lee said the initiative taken by the Former Customs Officers' Association was relevant as it would clarify the department's roles and history.

"It will allow the public to use it as a reference, where they can find out about the objectives, roles and functions of the department as the country's main revenue collector."

Khazali said the department was not involved in publishing the *Royal Customs Malaysia Encyclopedia*

but contributed data and facts, as well as moral support.

"We hope it would be available for distribution within the next six months.

"The reference work would also be made available in schools and universities."



Datuk Lee Chee Leong