



Rs97bn collected by SBR & excise dept, Qaim told

By Habib Khan Ghori

KARACHI: The Sindh Board of Revenue (SBR), which has recovered Rs55 billion up to May 30, will achieve its target of Rs61 billion collection by the financial year end while the excise and taxation department has already crossed its target of Rs41.78 billion by collecting over Rs42 billion.

This was stated in a meeting held at CM House on Tuesday to review the government kitty for finalising the next budget.

Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah, who presided over the meeting, said: "We will ensure that its benefits trickle down to the people of the province by creating job opportunities and carrying out development works."

Giving guidelines to the finance, development and planning teams, the chief minister said that maximum employment opportunities be created in the next budget. Focus must be given to the development of the social sector. "I want you to give special attention to women's empowerment, youth, sports, welfare, special education and such others department," he said. He added that additional funds

be allocated for local governments.

Mr Shah said as the last property survey was conducted in 2001, a fresh survey must be conducted to bring more housing units into the tax net. He directed the chief secretary to call a meeting to evolve a mechanism for fresh survey of property units.

The chief minister directed Senior Finance Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah to recommend proposals for the next year budget which would be finalised in the next meeting.

The finance minister said there would be a plenty of new jobs in police, education, health, irrigation and some other departments.

Earlier, the SBR official in charge said his organisation had collected Rs6.1 billion in May which was itself a record. The overall collection from July 2015 to May 30, 2016 came to Rs55 billion, he added. By the end of this financial year, it would achieve the collection target of Rs61 billion, he added.

The chief minister congratulated the SBR and finance minister for achieving the target and said it would strengthen financial position of the province. Last year the collection target was Rs49 billion.