

**MP: Umno will give GST Chinese twist**  
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Knowing Umno, DAP parliamentarian Ariff Sabri expects its leaders to factor in a racial twist to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) issue.

He predicted that Umno will rope in the Chinese to persuade the Malays to back the controversial tax.

"They will say GST is to make sure tax evasion and tax dodging are limited. Those escaping and evading taxes are the Chinese and with GST, these people can't escape. So Malays must support GST because the Chinese have evaded paying taxes to the Umno government.

"Umno apparatchiks will go around town repeating this story. The reason why this government lacked money is because many people are evading paying tax and so we must catch them," he added in a blog posting today.

The Raub MP left also said Umno would not reveal the entire story behind its argument that 160 countries are using GST.

"They will not say the most powerful economy in the world, US is not using GST. They will not say the real reason why GST is used by these 160 countries is that each one of those countries needs more money. Malaysia wants to use GST to extract more money.

"We must object to increased taxation because the idea of taxation is not to give money to the government to run its business. The idea of taxation is to redistribute income not fund government operations," he added.

Ariff also took a swipe at Domestic Trade and Consumerism Minister Hassan Malek for claiming that people understand GST better now.

"How he comes to this conclusion, we don't know. Maybe Hassan is a clairvoyant or he has employed the Bomoh King. On the other hand, we know Hassan has a penchant for saying things according to his limited understanding," he said.

"How on earth can Hassan infer that people understand what GST is all about? The people trading in pasar malam (night markets) are cursing at GST saying it is just another money extracting scheme by the spendthrift BN government.

"The Chinese wholesalers in Pasar Borong Selayang keep asking and make fun of GST- apa itu GST? (What is GST) Gua tak kira lor (I don't care). They couldn't care less," he added.

Describing the GST as a "penyakit" (disease), the DAP MP asked how could the government ask the people to support a bad policy.

"Let us see whether the more than 300 facilitators employed by the Ministry of Finance will be able to enlighten the people about taxing at each phase of the supply chain.

"Perhaps the government thinks it is speaking to an audience made up of accountants and other numerate people. Perhaps the government thinks it is speaking to educated audience all over," he added.

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