

## **'Businesses creating confusion about GST'**

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The people have been warned of some businesses and companies that are creating confusion about the goods and services tax (GST) that will be implemented from April 1 next year.

These actions in spreading false information about GST prior to its launching are akin to sabotage, the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry has said.

The individuals or companies involved can be penalised under the Trade Descriptions Act 2011, the minister, Hasan Malek, warned yesterday, after launching a supermarket in Perak.

Stern action will be taken against those trying to manipulate the public on the GST, Hasan (left) is quoted as saying in today's issue of Malay daily Sinar Harian.

"Those found guilty can be fined up to RM100,000 and imprisoned not more than three years. The company involved can also be fined up to RM250,000.

"We have already penalised several individuals and companies under this Act, so don't assume we will not hesitate to implement it," Hasan said.

He told reporters that these people were fooling the public by claiming the implementation of GST would increase the prices of all products.

"The people must understand that when the GST is implemented, not all items will fall under that category. Some will be excluded. They should not be so gullible as to fall for these false advertisements," he said.

Hasan added that his ministry was utterly disappointed that some traders could stoop so low as to manipulate the people for profit.

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