

## **Najib: Gov't will explain use of GST revenue**

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**By Kow Gah Chie**

The government will explain the usage of extra revenue obtained through the Goods and Services Tax (GST), Prime Minister Najib Abduk Razak promised this morning.

In a move to win public confidence over the much-criticised tax, Najib said the government would act against irresponsible price hikes as well as be transparent on the usage of the GST collected.

"We will present details to the public. The extra revenue will be used for the benefit of the people and the country," the prime minister told civil servants at the monthly staff assembly of the Prime Minister's Department.

"I guarantee this is the intention of the government," he said.

The government, Najib added, wasn't afraid of making difficult decisions which were necessary for long term benefit.

"We all know that we need the revenue to strengthen the country, that's why we introduced GST," he said.

The GST may not be popular in the short term, but the government will improve on its implementation, he said.

Through a better implementation of the new tax, Najib believes, the people will come to realise that a financially-strong Malaysia will inspire market confidence.

### **Almost zero unemployment**

Najib said uncertainties caused by the GST will be resolved soon.

"I am sure we will be able to solve it with the condition that we stay together as a family," he said.

Earlier, the premier stressed that the government's transformation policies, which the Najib administration had implemented since 2009, have borne fruit.

"It cannot be denied that we can be proud of the achievements from the transformation policy.

"How many countries in the world can achieve a six percent economic growth like we did last year?" he asked.

He added that the transformation policies had also created approximately 1.5 million new jobs, which helped lower the unemployment rate.

He claimed that Malaysia currently has almost zero unemployment.

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