

PM: Govt will only implement GST if minimum income rises to RM3k

Malaysiakini

13 October 2024

Bernama

The government will only implement the goods and services tax (GST) if the minimum income threshold is at RM3,000-RM4,000, said Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim.

Currently, the minimum monthly wage in Malaysia is RM1,500.

Acknowledging the tax system as efficient and transparent, Anwar said the GST would also help to expand the government's coffers with higher revenue collection.

However, he believes that the poor should not be burdened with such a tax system.

"I agree, GST is the most transparent and efficient tax system... but my view is, give it some time, some years, (we must) make sure that the income threshold increases to the minimum of RM3,000-RM4,000, then we can adjust the policy," he said at the Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry's 78th

annual general meeting today.

Anwar, who is also the finance minister, said the GST had been an ongoing issue for decades, even during his previous tenure as finance minister in the 1990s.

He disagreed at that time, believing that addressing corruption involving billions of ringgit should be a priority.

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