

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	31 MARCH 2015

'GST to strengthen financial resources'

MAIN OBJECTIVE: PM says govt. to ensure GST doesn't burden the people

PETALING JAYA

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said yesterday the government is committed to ensuring that the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) will not burden the people.

The prime minister said it should be realised that the primary objective of the implementation of the GST was to strengthen the country's financial resources and, eventually, ensure more effective development for the nation's progress and people's good.

"Our aim of implementing the GST is not to burden the people. We implement the GST in a way to minimise the burden on the people. No other country has given that many zero-rated GST and exemptions that we have.

"This goes to show that the government really does not want to burden the people. We will implement the GST without burdening the people. At the same time, we will raise the nation's revenue, and this is for the people's good."

Najib said this at a staff gathering at the multipurpose hall of the Fed-



A trader rushing to register his company at a GST counter at Customs Complex in Kelaya Jaya yesterday. Pic by Asyraf Hamzah

eral Territory Royal Customs Department here.

He said it was hoped that, at the macro level, the strengthening of the country's financial resources through this taxation system would help raise the nation's rating to a more positive level and enhance international confidence in the way Malaysia managed its economy.

He advised Customs staff to make the implementation of the GST on April 1 the best tax reform in the country's history.

Acknowledging that the Customs had a heavy responsibility in facing the people's perception, Najib said the government would be with the department in ensuring that the implementation of the GST was smooth.

"The Customs staff, as frontliners, have a huge responsibility and I wish to state that we are here to

help the Royal Customs Department carry out that responsibility.

"Customs, we are with you; we will walk together and implement the GST. This is going to be the biggest tax reform in our history and we will make it successful."

Earlier, Najib, who is also the finance minister, launched a set of GST guidelines to enable the people to better understand the taxation system, and had a look at the preparations of the Customs staff for its implementation.

Second Finance Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Husni Mohamad Hanadzlah; Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Ahmad Maslan; Treasury secretary-general Tan Sri Dr Mohd Irwan Siregar Abdullah; Customs director-general Datuk Seri Khazali Ahmad and other senior Customs officers attended the event. **Bernama**