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PM assures GST won't burden people

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> Main aim to strengthen country's financial resources, says Najib

PETAUNG JAYA: The government is committed to ensuring that the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) will not burden the people, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak said yesterday.

He said it should be realised that the main aim of the implementation of the GST is to strengthen the country's financial resources and, eventually, ensure more effective development.

"Our aim in implementing the GST is not to burden the people. We implement the GST in a way to minimise the burden. 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. At the same time, we will raise the nation's revenue, and this is for the



Najib observing a Customs staff at the 'Helpdesk GST' division answer queries from the public about GST at the Federal Territory Customs Department in Petaling Jaya yesterday. Looking on are (from left) Khazali, Ahmad and Ahmad Husni.

people's good," he said.
Najib was addressing a gathering of Customs employees at the Federal

Territory Royal Customs Department here.
He said it is 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.

He advised Customs staff to make the implementation of the GST tomorrow the most excellent tax reform in the country's history.

Acknowledging that the Customs had a heavy responsibility, Najib said the government will be with the department in ensuring that the GST is implemented smoothly.

"The Customs staff have a huge duty and I wish to state that we are here to help them discharge 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," he said.

Also present were Second Finance Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Husni Mohamad Hanadzlah, Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Ahmad Maslan, Customs director-general Datuk Seri Khazali Ahmad. - Bernama