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'No GST for prepaid card reloads next year'

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PEKAN: Taking into consideration the people's wellbeing, there will be no Goods and Services Tax (GST) imposed on prepaid card reloads.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said the government wished to continue excluding GST for prepaid cards to help ease the people's burden due to the rising cost of living.

"The government will continue to exclude GST charges for prepaid cards next year," he said after a visit to Giatmara here.

Najib, who is also finance minister, said the measure was taken as many people, especially youth, depended on prepaid telecommunications services.

Some 33 million Malaysian prepaid mobile phone users received their GST rebate in the form of air-

time, effective between Jan 1 and Dec 31, this year.

This was part of GST improvement measures.

On his one-day visit here, which Najib dubbed a "solution walkabout", he said it was to allow him to listen to the people's problems and review the effectiveness of government policies.

Najib, who had a packed schedule beginning yesterday morning, said the visit was carried out in his capacity as Pekan member of parliament.

"Through this visit, I am able to see the effectiveness of government policies, and whether they reached the target groups.

"Secondly, it is so I can find out if there are problems among the people in Pekan.

"I can help them by taking action immediately to resolve their problems.

"Thirdly, this visit is also for me to listen to the people, as the MP for Pekan."

Najib said he saw that government policies had improved the quality of life for many here.

When asked whether the visit was a sign that the 14th General Election was around the corner, the prime minister laughed off the speculation.

"Even if there were no elections, I would still visit Pekan.

"As the MP, such visits are not unusual.

"It is just that today (yesterday), my visit is a bit packed because I want to make full use of my time and meet the people."