

Parliament: Almost 5,000 GST Awareness, Training Programmes Undertaken
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KUALA LUMPUR, March 24 (Bernama) -- A total of 4,967 awareness programmes and training sessions were carried out by the Finance Ministry from 2010 to February this year on the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), the Dewan Rakyat was told Monday.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said 271,288 people, among them traders, government employees and students, attended the programmes and training sessions.

"For the traders, who comprise the critical group in the implementation of the GST, the government is carrying out briefing and training undertaken by the government, the private sector or jointly," he said in a written reply to a question from Khalid Abdul Samad (PAS-Shah Alam).

Malaysia is set to introduce the GST at six per cent from April 1 next year. The GST will replace the present 16 per cent sales and service tax.

Najib, who is also the finance minister, said RM17 million was being spent on campaigns and publicity on the GST through the mainstream and alternative media from 2012.

"A RM98-million GST computerisation system has been developed by the Royal Customs Department, RM150 million has been set aside for subsidised accounting software for small and medium enterprises and RM100 million has been reserved as training grants for traders by the Finance Ministry," he said.

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