

Creative Approach, Simple Language Necessary to Explain GST - Senator

Bernama

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KUALA LUMPUR, May 5 (Bernama) -- The government must determine the best and most creative method to explain the goods and services tax (GST) to ensure it is accepted by all when implemented in April, next year.

Senator Datuk Boon Som Inong said this was to ensure the people understood GST and its effect on their daily lives.

Speaking when debating the 2014 GST bill in the Senate Monday, he said briefings which did not reach the target group would only confuse the people more, especially when certain parties duped them by saying the people would end up the losers.

"Without creative explanations, I am worried the benefits of this system will receive the same fate befalling the 1Malaysia Concept which was ridiculed by those with vested interests, when they are actually beneficial to the people.

"It was different from the much talked about Vision 2020. To provide an understanding, numerous seminars, workshops and nation-building camps were attended by people of all levels resulting in the vision being mentioned and understood until today," he said.

Boon said information on GST must be delivered in simple languages, not randomly using difficult languages understood only by economists and financial experts.

He said the aspiration of comprehensive understanding would not be achieved if the dissemination of information was only merely based on the efforts of the Finance Ministry, Information Department or television advertisements.

Meanwhile, Senator Lihan Jok suggested that the government mobilised every individual receiving salary and allowance from the government to go down to the field to explain the effect behind the implementation of the GST.

He said the government should not be contented with the success in implementing GST but, on the other hand, must be aware of the existence of other factors which were faster in influencing the people to reject the benefits of the GST.

Unlike the Sales and Service Tax 1975 (SST) which is a single tiered tax, GST is multi-tiered with the payment of taxes made at various levels by intermediaries in the production and distribution processes.

GST would be introduced in April 2015 at a rate of six percent to replace SST, which is 16 percent.

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