

Dewan Rakyat: GST Should Be Imposed At Different Rates According To Category, Says BN MP

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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 16 (Bernama) -- A member of Parliament today proposed to the government to impose the goods and services tax (GST) at different rates according to category.

Tan Sri Shahrir Abdul Samad (BN-Johor Baharu) said the government should also make the GST more flexible and consider restructuring it after a year of implementation.

"For example, the GST rate for luxury items should not be fixed at six per cent. Maybe it can be fixed at a higher rate," he said when debating the Supply Bill 2015 at the Dewan Rakyat sitting here today.

The GST of six per cent is set to be implemented from April 2015.

Shahrir also proposed for the government to implement luxury tax on luxury properties and assets as part of the moves to increase government revenue as being practised in Netherlands and Norway.

"Not only the people there have to pay the income tax, they must also declare their assets and that the luxury tax will be imposed based on their luxury assets or wealth," he said.

Meanwhile, Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali (BN-Bagan Serai) when debating the same bill proposed for the government to find a new mechanism to ensure that each subsidy would only benefit those who needed it most.

He said this was because, at present, the subsidies on petrol and diesel, for example, were also enjoyed by the rich people, as well as foreigners.

"This is not fair because the subsidies should benefit the people, the low-income group, who needed it the most," he said.

As such, he said the government should scrutinise the eligibility of subsidy recipients to ensure that only those who deserved it would receive it, and to prove the government's transparency in giving the subsidy.

"There should be certain criteria that must be met before the recipients can receive the subsidy, such as a proof in the form of a wedding certificate," he said.

The sitting continues on Oct 27.

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