

## **GST imposed on extracurricular activities**

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**By Arfa Yunus**

KELANA JAYA, Parents, who send their children to Chinese vernacular schools lodged a report with the Customs Department, following complaints that the Goods and Services Tax (GST) were being imposed on extracurricular activities.

One parent, Edward Neoh Chuan Tat, 50 said that there were about 200 schools around the country that were imposing GST on extracurricular activities, according to complaints he received through the SJK (C) Fees Monitoring Forum Facebook page.

He explained that vendors and companies providing equipment for extracurricular activities such as the Robotics and IT club have been charging GST on the fees.

“This is wrong. If the vendors want to collect GST, they have to do it themselves, not through the school or Parents Teacher Association (PTA).

“These two entities are not allowed to collect GST,” he said during a media conference at the Customs Department Complex here today.

According to Neoh, letters demanding GST added fees were sent to parents, but the vendors and schools failed to provide necessary evidence on those letters to clarify if the involved vendors were GST compliant.

“The letters they sent to us carried the approval and endorsement of the PTAs of the schools.”

However, Neoh admitted to reporters that he and other parents did not contact the schools regarding the issue as they “did not want to waste time going through the schools”.

“This is why we are lodging a report here with the Customs Department.

“Because this is the right way to make a report involving GST.

“We are so glad that the Customs officers we met inside were very helpful.”

Meanwhile, another parent, J S Lim, 54 said that they had sent a letter and an email to Deputy Education Minister Datuk Mary Yap.

“She replied to us saying that she will look into the matter but we have not received any updates from her until now.”

When asked on other complaints received by them through their Facebook page, Neoh said that there were Chinese vernacular schools asking parents to pay for the monthly water and electricity bills.

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