

## **Flat Rate Scheme To Help Farmers And Fishermen Face GST**

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PEKAN, March 22 (Bernama) -- A flat rate scheme to help farmers, smallholders and fishermen whose incomes do not exceed RM500,000 per year will run concurrently with the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on April 1.

Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Ahmad Maslan said the flat rate scheme at two percent of the total amount was intended to reduce agricultural production or fish farming costs incurred by the group after the implementation of the GST.

"If the farmers sell oil palm or whatever agricultural products to manufacturers, the manufacturers will have to pay the price of the oil palm and additional two per cent of the total payment made to the farmers.

"Similarly, farmers or fishermen can get an additional two per cent of the sales of vegetables and fish sold to the Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority (FAMA) or Area Fishermen Association (PNK).

"The two per cent incurred by the manufacturers or wholesalers, FAMA or PNK will later be claimed from the government and they do not have to spend additional costs to pay this group of people," he said here Sunday.

He was speaking at a press conference after a GST, budget and Pekan parliamentary current issue briefing, held at Pekan District Council Community Hall here, today.

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