

**Profiteering Traders Smearing GST Implementation -Ahmad Maslan
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PUTRAJAYA, April 15 (Bernama) -- Some unethical traders seeking excessive profits by charging the Goods and Services Tax (GST) together with the sales and service tax (SST) in a single purchase receipt are damaging the implementation of the GST, said Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Ahmad Maslan.

He said he believed in the benefits of the GST system since studying it from 1986, but was unhappy that it was being manipulated by raising prices unreasonably.

"Rightly, SST should be deducted from the value of every good before adding the new GST rate but what is happening is that the SST is added with the GST, for example SST is five per cent plus GST six per cent (SST 5% + GST 6%), this is clearly a violation of the GST tax procedure," he said.

Speaking at a press conference after launching the 'National Seminar on the Goods and Services Tax According to Islamic Perspectives' at Masjid Putra here today, Ahmad said he was willing to be criticised and belittled in his attempts to explain the pros of the GST.

He believes the criticism will come to an end when traders and the people begin to understand and adapt to the tax which is better than the SST and "will provide many benefits to traders, the people and the country".

Maslan said that although the Customs Department had set a period of six months to 'stabilise' acceptance of the GST implementation, nevertheless he had asked the department to reduce this period to three months.

The GST implemented (at the rate of six per cent) on April 1 replaces the SST which is rated at 16 per cent overall.

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