

**National Fatwa Council: GST Is Permissible**  
**Bernama**  
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PUTRAJAYA, April 20 (Bernama) -- The National Fatwa Council once again stressed that the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) is permissible (harus) as long as national and public interests (masalahah) necessitate it.

Its chairman, Prof Emeritus Tan Sri Abd Shukor Husin, said the GST implementation, however, must be carried out based on the six parameters of Islam underlined by the council.

He said among the parameters were that the government shall remain committed to collect the tax with the aim to uphold Islamic teachings; that the government was in need of a financial source to provide public amenities such as roads and hospitals, as well as to give aid to the poor; and that the tax collection would only be used to fulfil social responsibility and to serve the interests of the people and the country.

"After taking into consideration all scholarly opinions and based on the six underlined parameters of Islam, we agreed that the GST implementation is permissible for the government," he told a press conference after chairing the council's meeting here today.

He said apart from scholarly opinions, the council's decision was made after taking into account the intensive report prepared by a group of researchers, who are also economic and syariah experts, from Universiti Teknologi MARA.

When asked whether the council would issue a new fatwa if the government failed to meet the underlined parameters, he said the government should be given at least a year to implement the GST before any review were to be made.

In another development Abd Shukor said the council had never withdrawn the ban issued on April 3, 2000, on Tariqat Naqsyabandiyah Al-Aliyah led by Syeikh Nazim Al-Haqqani.

He said Tariqat Naqsyabandiyah Al-Aliyah was banned after the council found that its teachings and practice contravened the Islamic teachings and the practice of Ahli Sunnah wal-Jamaah.

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