

**KPDNKK Proposes Special Certificates For Service Charge In Restaurants, Hotels**  
**Bernama**  
**April 7, 2015**

SHAH ALAM, April 7 (Bernama) -- The Ministry of Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism (KPDNKK) plans to issue special certificates for restaurants and hotels which can impose the service charge.

Its minister, Datuk Seri Hasan Malek said the certificates would be an interim measure ahead of a long-term solution following the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on April 1.

He said the move was being taken following confusion among consumers who are unhappy that are forced to pay the service charge as well as the GST.

"When we issue the special certificate, it means that the consumer will know that they will have to pay the service charge and the GST, and the outlet must display this certificate on their premises," he told reporters here Tuesday.

He added that restaurant and hotel operators must apply for the certificate from KPDNKK, thus allowing them to impose the service charge.

Hasan said the ministry would study the procedure for the implementation of the service charge as there was no specific law controlling it and it required a new law to look after the interests both consumers and entrepreneurs.

He also said the displayed certificate would make it easier for consumers to decide if they wanted to patronise a restaurant or hotel which imposed the service charge.

Earlier, Hasan had launched the Mastercard Sahabat Ikhtiar Debit-i Cooperative membership card, a joint venture between Bank Rakyat and Koperasi Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia.

Also present were the Managing Director/President of Bank Rakyat, Datuk Mustafha Abdul Razak and Koperasi Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia chairman Datuk Dr A. Manaf Hussin.

In a statement issued here, Bank Rakyat said an estimated 10,000 debit-i cards would be issued by the end of this year and it was a strategic joint-venture in new markets.

The statement also said cooperative members could use the debit-i card for dividend and share payments besides using it for cashless purchases.

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Source : <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/newsindex.php?id=1123975>