

**Essential Goods Supply Still Adequate Despite Panic Buying - Muhyiddin
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JASIN, April 1 (Bernama) -- The supply of essential goods in the country is still sufficient despite the public panic buying before the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) today, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

He said the government had given directives to the ministries in charge such as Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Ministry and Agriculture and Agro-based Ministry to ensure supply of essential goods was always adequate.

"The problem (of insufficient supply of essential goods) does not arise so the public need not panic, buy as usual and the supply is always provided.

"I see that certain people may have taken advantage before the GST starts to be enforced until the supermarket shelves and racks were emptied. I don't think it should be that way," he told a media conference here Wednesday.

Earlier he launched the Malaysian Polytechnic Polytechnic POLYGreen Blueprint at Politeknik Merlimau here.

Commenting on the GST implementation today, Muhyiddin hoped the enforcement of the system would run smoothly even though there was some minor glitches.

In the implementation of any system for the first, he said minor glitches could not be avoided apart from the country's GST system that exempted and zero rated the GST rate for certain goods.

He said those who were not clear or faced any problems on the GST and met traders who reaped profits unscrupulously by using GST as an excuse to lodge reports immediately to the relevant authorities.

"Media publicity should also help to explain that GST is a system that is more orderly and up-to-date that is being implemented in many countries," he said.

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