

Malaysia Implements GST
Bernama
April 1, 2015

KUALA LUMPUR, April 1 (Bernama) -- Malaysia starts implementing the Goods and Services Tax (GST) today, which is seen as an important change in efforts to strengthen the national economy while taking into account the people's interest.

The move sees Malaysia joining more than 160 countries which had introduced GST, including seven in Southeast Asia which are ASEAN members.

At the GST rate of six per cent - the lowest rate among ASEAN countries - the government is targeting to collect for development and improving social infrastructure.

Traders are also expected to enjoy lower business costs through improvement of the tax system and doing away of overlapping tax elements.

Taking into account the interest of the people, the government also introduced the category of goods and services which had been exempted from GST to replace the sales tax and services of 16 per cent.

Among them are basic food items, services, health, education and public transportation, other than amenities such as water supply and electricity.

Aware that there will be confusion and to protect consumers, the government has prepared various mechanisms to prevent the people from being cheated by irresponsible parties, following implementation of the GST .

Among the laws related to GST are the Price Control and Anti-Profiteering Act, Trade Descriptions Act 2011, Consumer Protection Act 1999 and Goods and Services Tax Act 2014.

Apart from that are six booklets on consumer price guidelines according to zones containing prices that have been decreased, maintained and increased, have been published by the domestic trade, cooperatives and consumerism ministry (KPDNKK).

The booklets can be obtained for free at the KPDNKK headquarters and offices in every state or can be downloaded from <http://ebook.kpdnkk.gov.my> KPDNKK also has Customs hotline or <http://aduan.customs.gov.my> or KPDNKK hotline 1-800-886-800 or 03-88826245 and 03-88826088.

The Royal Malaysian Customs Department hotline is 1-300-888-500 or 03-8882211 for the public to obtain further information on GST.

The public are reminded that only traders registered for GST have the right to charge the tax and the list of business premises can be accessed through

<http://gstmalaysiainfo.com/bagaimana-cara-untuk-menyemak-status-gst>.

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