

**GST: Written Receipts Only Permitted On Technical Grounds Says Customs
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KUALA LUMPUR, April 3 (Bernama) -- Business owners registered with the Goods and Services Tax (GST) are only allowed to issue written invoices or receipts on technical grounds.

Customs Department GST Division director Datuk T.Subromaniam said business premises were only allowed to issue manually written receipts temporarily until the technical problem is resolved.

"It should be printed. Only when the machine or system breaks down or when there is an electricity supply disruption (are written invoices allowed).

"We do not allow issuing of written receipts indefinitely," he said when contacted by Bernama here Friday.

He made the clarification when asked to comment on traders issuing written receipts and invoices.

Subromaniam said the written receipts should be in pre-printed form with details such as address, name of company and GST registration number.

Malaysia began implementing GST on April 1 as an important reform to strengthen the country's economy and by taking the interest of the people.

At six per cent, the local GST rate is the lowest among ASEAN countries and the government is targeting to collect revenue for development and build the people's social infrastructure.

Meanwhile in BUTTERWORTH, a Malay non-governmental organisation (NGO) in Penang today urged the government to withdraw GST on pre-paid reload cards.

NGO representative Anuar Faisal Yahaya said GST imposed on consumers using the pre-paid service would burden those from the low and middle income groups.

"In representing Malay NGOs in Penang, we are calling on the government to reconsider the imposition of GST on pre-paid cards as most of the users are not from the high income group.

"Besides, we feel telecommunication companies should absorb the tax as they have been raking in millions of ringgit in profit each year," he told reporters after a meeting between Malay NGOs and the Penang Customs Department here today.

Meanwhile in KOTA KINABALU, the Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism

Ministry (KPDNKK) in Sabah received 84 complaints on the Goods and Services Tax (GST) since it was introduced on Wednesday, said Sabah KPDNKK director Severinus Tukah.

He said among the complaints received included GST charge on pre-paid cards, using receipts without GST registration code, confusing GST receipts, imposition of other charges other than GST, raising prices of goods with zero-rated GST and increasing the price of cigarettes after GST.

Severinus also said 1,118 inspections were conducted with the Sabah Customs Department on wholesalers, retailers, hypermarkets, supermarkets, mini-markets, sundry shops, premises providing services, night markets, wet markets, stalls and food shops as well as restaurants since Wednesday to last night.

Meanwhile in KUCHING, five GST related offences were detected since the tax was introduced on Wednesday.

Assistant Minister in the Chief Minister's Office, Datuk Naroden Majais said since GST was implemented, nine written warnings and three notices were issued under Section 21 of the Price Control and Anti-Profiteering Act 2011 to traders throughout the state.

"Since the first day of GST, the Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Ministry (KPDNKK) in Sarawak as well as Customs' GST Division had inspected 94 premises in the state.

"There were five offences involving sundry goods detected and goods valued at RM1,353.20 were confiscated," he told reporters after leading an operation with Sarawak KPDNKK and Customs at a supermarket here today.

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