

GST: 15,500 JKKKs Nationwide To Monitor Prices Of Goods

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NIBONG TEBAL, April 4 (Bernama) -- A total of 15,500 Village Development and Security Committees (JKKK) will be deployed nationwide to monitor prices of goods following the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), especially in rural areas.

Rural and Regional Development Ministry adviser, Datuk Zainal Abidin Osman, said as many as 486 JKKKs in Penang comprising 10,000 members were assigned to go down to the ground to make sure no traders took the opportunity to raise prices.

"If we see buyers in rural areas are not affected by the GST it is because they usually buy goods in retail shops, night markets, 'pasar Kemboja' and farmers' markets, many of which do not issue receipts.

"Therein lies the problem, we worry there are traders who will take advantage by raising prices at will. So far we have not had any feedback from consumers about rise in prices of goods in the shops concerned.

"However, we are monitoring these shops," he told reporters after launching the state-level Productivity Improvement Movement in Penang, here Saturday.

Zainal Abidin, who is also Penang UMNO liaison committee chairman, said consumers need to use their discretion when making a purchase to ensure there is no element of fraud involved.

Asked whether the implementation of GST will affect the Barisan Nasional (BN) in the upcoming by-election for the Permatang Pauh seat, he said the party accepted the fact that the GST will be an issue throughout the election.

However, Zainal Abidin said the matter will not affect the BN machinery's efforts to continue to provide extensive explanation to the people of Permatang Pauh on the goodness of the new taxation system.

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