

Health Ministry Hopes For More Medicines Exempted From GST

Bernama

April 6, 2015

TEMERLOH, April 6 (Bernama) -- The number of medicines that are exempted from the goods and services tax (GST) is likely to be expanded, if the proposed plan by the Health Minister gets the green light.

Its Minister Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam said the proposed plan had been submitted to the Finance Ministry and Customs Department, and the result was expected to be announced in two or three weeks.

"If they give us the much awaited green light, almost all of the medicines will be exempted from GST. We hope this proposal would be taken into account for the benefit of the people," he told a press conference here today.

Dr Subramaniam noted that to date, there were 4,215 medicines that were GST exempted.

He also said the ministry had not received a single complaint from the public regarding the implementation of the new tax system.

Earlier, Dr Subramaniam handed over aid amounting to RM217,000 from the ministry to a total of 901 staff who were affected by massive floods in Pahang, last year.

The aid presentation ceremony took place at Hospital Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah here. Also present at the ceremony was Pahang Health, Human Resource and Special Functions committee chairman Datuk Norol Azali Sulaiman.

He said the ministry had estimated a total of RM280 million would be needed to rebuild clinics and health facilities across the country that were damaged during the floods.

"In Pahang itself, there were 12 clinics that need to be rebuilt. The number is higher in Kelantan.

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