

Opposition Parties Blamed For Reported Pre-GST Panic Buying
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IPOH, April 6 (Bernama) -- A state executive councillor today blamed the opposition parties for the reported panic buying of essential goods just before the Goods and Services Tax (GST) came into force on April 1.

Consumer Affairs, Human Resources and Civil Society Committee chairman Datuk Samsudin Abu Hassan said these parties had claimed that the prices of goods would rise upon the implementation of the GST.

"The widespread dissemination of this inaccurate information had helped many traders to dispose of their supply of goods by March 31," he said when winding up debate on the motion of thanks for the royal address in the state legislative assembly.

Samsudin said the GST would help to curb and eventually do away with traders trying to avoid paying tax.

"Nevertheless, the government, through its agencies, would be constantly on the alert for possible attempts to escape paying tax," he said.

He referred to a question from Datuk Seri Mohammad Nizar Jamaluddin (PAS-Changkat Jering) on the alleged illegal collection of taxes by the Customs, and said there would be no such thing because all GST-registered traders used a standard taxation software.

He asked whether the opposition parties wanted to protect tax dodgers among the traders who were not transparent in conducting their business.

Samsudin said there would be teething problems in enforcing the GST and there was a possibility that traders would raise the prices of their goods.

However, he said, action could be taken against traders who made excessive profit under the Price Control and Anti-Profiteering Act 2011.

The people should also play their role and report any rise in prices to the Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Ministry, he added.

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