

**30 Per Cent Of 70,000 Companies Have Submitted Monthly GST Statements - Customs
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BALING, May 13 (Bernama) -- About 30 per cent of the 70,000 registered companies have submitted their Goods and Services Tax (GST) monthly statements to the Customs Department, 14 days before the May 27, deadline.

Customs director-general, Datuk Seri Khazali Ahmad said companies that generated revenue of more than RM5 million must submit their statements every month compared to every-three-month submission for companies with income below RM5 million.

"We do not expect any technical problems because the existing system has the capacity to receive a huge volume of statements as well as sending reminders to them," he told reporters after launching the Kedah state-level Anti-Smuggling campaign here, Wednesday.

He said for businesses earning less than RM5 million, they can submit starting July and failure to comply will be liable to RM50,000 fine or three months jail or both upon conviction.

Khazali reminded the companies to not take the statement submission matter lightly as it was important for tax collection and if they failed to do so, it would be difficult for customs to collect the tax.

Khazali said 3,000 Customs officers were in states for 'mystery shopping' mission to observe the GST implementation based on the public complaints.

"We are on a mission to observe and monitor those who are taking advantage of the tax implementation," he said while urging members of the public to provide information and report the culprits.

Meanwhile, he said Kedah customs had busted 139 smuggling cases since early this year with value of contraband goods and tax, amounting to RM50 million.

"16 of the cases involved contraband cigarettes worth RM44 million while 20 cases involved contraband liquor worth RM154,000 and 83 vehicles used for smuggling cases worth RM5 million," he said.

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