

AG Chambers Directed To Act Swiftly Against Errant Traders Over GST
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ROMPIN, April 29 (Bernama) -- The Cabinet today directed the Attorney General's Chambers to take swift action against traders who took advantage of the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) to cheat consumers.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said quick action had to be taken as irresponsible traders were causing the people to blame the government following rising prices of goods.

He said GST implementation which began on April 1, should assist the people to enjoy lower prices as GST at six per cent, was lower than the Sales and Services Tax (SST) at 10 per cent.

"Today at the cabinet meeting, we told the Attorney General's Chambers to take swift actions on cases brought by the Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Ministry (KPDNKK).

"Where there are clear cases of cheating the people, they should be prosecuted swiftly," he said when speaking at a 'Leader with the People' session while on a working visit to the Tioman state constituency at Dataran Rompin here today.

Also present were Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob, Barisan Nasional (BN) Wanita chief Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil and BN Rompin Parliamentary by-election candidate Datuk Hasan Arifin.

Muhyiddin said the order to the Attorney General to act quickly showed the seriousness of the government in enforcing laws to protect the people from being burdened by the rising cost of living.

"If there are laws which are not enforced... then they are of no use. Traders who adhere to regulations do not have to fear as we are assisting consumers. Do not burden the people or otherwise they will blame the government," he said.

He said GST is an improvement to the SST tax system, aimed at assisting the people as revenue obtained by the government from GST will be returned to the people through various development programmes.

He said he understood the people's grouses especially on the question of cost of living and the government was address the matter via the 1Malaysia People's Assistance (BR1M), schooling aid and book voucher distribution.

"I myself support the GST, obviously the people are angry initially but in time to come, it will become more stable and will not be so confusing, and by then, the people will see its

benefits," he said.

Muhyiddin is also confident the people in Rompin and Permatang Pauh will continue to support the BN government which had various agenda and programmes to bring Malaysia towards a developed nation by 2020.

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