

People beginning to understand GST, fewer complaints now, says minister

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The Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Ministry is confident that people are beginning to understand the goods and services tax (GST) implemented since April 1.

Its minister Datuk Seri Hasan Malek said the conclusion was made based on the ministry's statistics showing a decrease in the number of consumer complaints by 60%.

"This perception is based on the complaints we received. We believe the public is beginning to understand that the GST is not troublesome to anyone, rather it benefits the people."

He said this to reporters after officiating at the handing-over of the coffee table book, "Hasan Malek: Legasi Pemimpin Berjiwa Rakyat" in Bangsar South City, in Kuala Lumpur today.

Based on information from the anti-profiteering centre, the weekly number of complaints received fell by 60% or 1,084 complaints from April 15 to April 30 compared with 442 complaints for the May 1-14 period.

However, Hasan advised consumers to continue lodging complaints relating to the new consumption tax to ensure that immediate action could be taken against traders who tried to reap profits by cheating consumers.

Several leading companies such as Trendcell Sdn Bhd, which owns the Jaya Grocer supermarket chain, and Aeon Co (M) Bhd had been taken to court under the Price Control and Anti-Profiteering Act 2011 recently.

Since April 1 until yesterday, a total of 5,982 complaints were received relating to anti-profiteering from GST, with the hike in prices of goods or services being the main complaint. – Bernama, May 20, 2015.

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