

'No GST hike in 2017 Budget'

LANGKAWI: The 2017 Budget, which will be tabled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak on Oct 21, will not involve a hike in the Goods and Services Tax (GST), said Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Othman Aziz.

He said the six per cent tax was sufficient to manage the economy and help the working class.

"We will not burden the people (by increasing the GST). We can still manage the economy despite facing some challenges," he said after launching the Seminar on Integrity, Quality, Innovation and Creativity (Public and Private Sector) here.

He was commenting on claims by certain parties that Najib, who is also finance minister, would announce an increase in the GST during the tabling of the 2017 Budget.

Othman said the GST, which was introduced on April 1 last year, did not apply to all essential items.

"The government is very concerned about the people. What we get from the GST, we give back to the people. But, some people try to exploit that."

Othman said preparations for the tabling of the 2017 Budget, which were in the final stages, had taken into account opinions of the public.

He said Najib was open to suggestions to ensure that next year's budget would reflect the voice and needs of all the people.

"There could be certain parties claiming that the government would increase the GST, but the government is responsible." **Bernama**



**Datuk
Othman Aziz**