



Johari (second left, in blue) has pledged to do something about the lack of parking in Taman Maluri.

Pledge to do away with GST not believable, says Johari

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ABOUT 170 countries have implemented the goods and services tax (GST) and none has reversed it.

As such, voters shouldn't believe Pakatan Harapan's promise to abolish it, said incumbent Titiwangsa MP Datuk Johari Abdul Ghani.

"Many voters have been influenced by the Opposition's pledge to abolish GST if they win the election.

"But we have to keep explaining to the public that we can't simply get rid of an efficient taxation system like GST which is practised by more than 170 countries.

"A good leader – no matter from which party – will take the time to explain to constituents, again and again if necessary, about GST and why it is important.

"Pakatan Harapan can promise that there will not be GST but that would be equivalent to taking the country backwards," Johari said after a walkabout in Taman Maluri.

Although his position about GST

may cost him votes, he said it shouldn't be an election issue.

"As a responsible government, we cannot just seek popularity. We have to do right for future generations."

He added that there was similar resistance when BR1M (1M People's Aid) was introduced but over time, people have welcomed it.

On a separate matter, Johari pledged to solve the parking woes in Taman Maluri if elected.

He said the lack of parking was one of the biggest problems that business owners and residents in the area have brought to his attention.

"This area was first developed 30 years ago. So much development has taken place since then.

"One solution would be to allow cars to double-park in the area during peak hours between noon and 2pm.

"I will urge the authorities not to issue summonses during those hours. This way, people will still patronise the eateries here and traders will not lose business,"

he said.

Johari added that even though only 25% of voters come under Titiwangsa (Taman Maluri is on the border of the constituencies of Titiwangsa and Cheras), he would address their woes to the best of his ability.

"I will make it a point to come here regularly because I have a responsibility to all my constituents," he said.

Asked on his chances this GE14, Johari said: "We will have to wait for May 9.

"I don't see the wave in Titiwangsa (so-called Malay tsunami in support of Opposition) for which I am grateful. But there is still five days to go which is a long time during an election. Anything can happen."

Johari is standing against Pakatan Harapan's Rina Mohd Harun and PAS' Mohamad Noor Mohamed in the parliamentary seat of Titiwangsa.

In 2013, he defeated PAS' Ahmad Zamri Asa'ad Khuzami in a straight fight by a majority of 866.