

## No hair-rising prices by barbers, hair salon operators

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Barbers and hair salon operators have assured the public that they will not arbitrarily increase the prices. --BERNAMA pic

**PUTRAJAYA:** Barbers and hair salon operators have assured the public that they will not arbitrarily increase the prices of their services.

This follows an agreement reached by seven associations on the matter in a meeting with the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry (KPDNHEP) on June 9.

The seven associations are Malaysian Hairdressing Association (MHA), Hairdressing Skills Development Association (HSDA), Malaysian Bumiputera Barber Association (MBBA), Malaysian Indian Hairstylist Empowerment (MIHASS), Persatuan Pengusaha Jurugaya Rambut India Malaysia (MINDAS), Persatuan Jurugaya Rambut India Selangor Wilayah Persekutuan (PJRISWP), Bumiputera Hairdressing Association (BUHA) and L'oreal Malaysia.

KPDNHEP enforcement director Datuk Iskandar Halim Sulaiman said the objective of the meeting was to gather more information on the costs directly borne by businesses for their compliance with Covid-19 Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs) in resuming their respective services.

"The outcome of the meeting saw an agreement being reached for businesses not to raise the rate for haircut services and only impose additional charges for two items, disposable scissors and gloves," he said in a statement today.

Iskandar said the additional charges imposed must be according to the cost price of the two items.

He added that the ministry's enforcement unit monitored and conducted checks nationwide on hair salon operators and barbers on June 10 via Ops Catut 7.0 (Hair Salons and Barbers).

Enforcement personnel conducted checks at 151 premises involving 274 barber services, which saw the issuance of 250 notices under the Price Control and Anti-Profitteering Act 2011 (AKHAP 2011).

Iskandar said any trader found to have increased their service charges was ordered to reduce it back to its original price.

Failure or refusal to comply with the directive will see severe action taken under AKHAP 2011 and they could be fined up to RM500,000.

Iskandar said businesses must adhere to the SOPs, which will entail additional costs.

"However, it is the new norm which must be adhered to in order to prevent the spread of Covid-19," he said.

The government gave the green light for barbers and hair salon operators to resume operations from June 10 onwards.

Defence Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said the decision was made after taking into account the sector's contribution to the country's GDP at RM13.5 billion a year.

Among the activities allowed are basic haircuts, basic hair wash, shaving, makeup and hair treatment, manicure and pedicure as well as facial treatment.

<https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2020/06/600137/no-hair-rising-prices-barbers-hair-salon-operators>