

New haircut prices should not burden consumers, says minister

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PUTRAJAYA (June 8): The new rate of haircuts should be in line with the additional cost that barbers and hairdressers have to bear and not burden consumers, said Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Alexander Nanta Linggi.

He said only the cost of items used for prevention of Covid-19 infection can be charged on customers in addition to the actual cost of a haircut.

"For example, if the process of cutting hair involves only the use of face masks, disposable aprons, gloves and hand sanitisers, then only the cost of these items can be charged on customers other than the original cost of a haircut," he said in a statement today.

Another example is that if the additional items comprise a RM3 plastic apron, gloves (50 sen) and hand sanitiser (30 sen), the total additional cost is only RM3.80, said Nanta, adding that barbershops cannot impose additional charges of up to RM10.

He said the ministry's enforcement personnel will carry out inspections at barbershops, hair salons and others to ensure that no operators take advantage of the situation and burden consumers.

Nanta also suggested that hair salons and beauty parlours display a list of prices for each additional item as well as the service charge for haircuts to enable customers to check prices in advance and avoid confusion.

Consumers could lodge reports with the ministry against any barbershop, hair salon and beauty parlour that impose unreasonable additional charges through WhatsApp at 019- 2794317, the call centre at 1 800 886 800 or email e-aduan@kpdnhep.gov.my.

Such complaints can be investigated under Section 14 of the Price Control and Anti-Profiteering Act 2011, he added.

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