

# Allow barbershops, gyms: Chamber

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LABUAN: The Labuan Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that since the government has relaxed the Movement Control Order (MCO) and allowed more economic sectors to resume business, it is time similar consideration is shown to barber shops and gymnasiums which had been closed since March 18.

Chamber Chairman Datuk Dahlif Singh (pic) said although there are health risks



posed by hair salons and gymnasiums, several other economic sectors allowed to operate also pose health risks.

"In the case barber shops, the government can impose additional safety measures to the normal Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) such as disinfecting every customers," he said.

He noted that barber chairs were already some distance away from one another and customers allowed into the premises should not be more than the number of chairs available at any one time.

An alternative was for customers to bring their own towel, scissors and comb.

He went on to say there were also risks in patronising supermarkets and other stores.

"What we can do is to minimise the risks."

On gymnasiums, he said the equipment were already apart and a meter away and thus social distancing was automatically observed. Entry limit could be made as a further caution.

Dahlif said: "Many are not used to sporting long hair. If there are further fears, children who are considered more venerable should be banned from entering hair salons."

A retired videographer, George John said he supported the suggestion of the chamber, adding that he was struggling to keep his beard and hair in shape "if it goes on, I may look like a Taliban"

He noted that the government has even relaxed conditions to allow Friday prayers at selected mosques and with a limited assembly.

He said disaffection and self hygiene were the best defence against the virus plus following government procedures, but there will still be certain amount of the risks like coins and notes changing hands. How safe are there to our health?