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Association urges govt to freeze fish spa businesses over HIV fear

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KOTA KINABALU: Sabah Blood Donors Association is urging the government to freeze and cancel business licences of those involved in “Fish Spa” in the State.

Its president Taufick Ruchi said that this is following concerns raised by various parties on the risk of spreading HIV and other communicable diseases through the fishes at the spa.

“The Sabah Blood Donors Association is concerned that the numerous fish spa outlets could bring unintended harm to the society and therefore it hopes that the businesses would be banned,” he said in a statement here.

Taufick was responding to Deputy Health Minister Datuk Rosnah Abdul Rashid Shirlin’s statement that her ministry had declared fish spa therapies as not safe because communicable disease such as HIV could easily be transmitted from high risk individuals to another.

According to Rosnah, the use of the same fishes during fish spa therapies is risky due to the fact that HIV virus could be transmitted through blood, saliva and skin cuts or rashes.

Meanwhile, the association is also appealing to the people to continue donating blood as the supply banks in hospitals are presently critically low.

The association would be holding two blood donation campaigns – at Yu Sang Marketing in Kepayan on 19 November and at Lido on 20 November.