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Many centres still flouting council's requirement

Jacqueline Raphael

MIRI: Sixteen reflexology centres here are found to have failed to furnish Miri City Council (MCC) with their employees' medical and health record based on a recent operation conducted by the council

The employers were found to have no new records of their employees' health since 2009.

This situation is worrying as the public is concerned about the spread of deadly diseases including Hepatitis B and HIV as there are also foreign masseurs who offer sex services to their clients, apart from the normal (massage) service.

The rise in the number of such centres is also worrying local housewives, afraid that the 'business' would affect their marriage.

The masseurs who mostly came from China and popularly known as 'China dolls' are also increasing in number.

"We found that 16

We found that 16 centres have not renewed their employees' medical records and this is a cause for concern.

Lawrence Lai, Mayor

centres have not renewed their employees' medical records and this is a cause for concern," said Mayor Lawrence Lai.

He said that all massage and reflexology centres were required to renew the health record of their employees once a year or every time they came to renew their business licence.

"This ensures that the centres will not become places for the spread of deadly diseases such as HIV and Hepatitis B, just to name a few."

He added that the problem of not renewing the employees' medical records might arise from the fact that some of the employees only worked for



Mayor Lawrence Lai

a short period of time and this was troublesome to the employers.

Starting last year, all reflexology centres here have been ordered to furnish the local authority with their employees' blood test result, especially foreign workers.

"The business licence is valid for one year. Before they can renew it, the employers must first renew their workers' visa, work permit and medical records.

"All these must first be checked and verified before the licence can be renewed," Lai said.

When chairing the full council meeting yesterday, Lai advised the council enforcement officers not to be too lenient with operators of reflexology centres, and not to recommend for their licence to be renewed if they did not meet the requirement.

The mayor also said suggested that employers send their workers to private clinics to have their health checked to ease the burden of government hospitals or clinics given the rising number of employers not complying with the policy (having their foreign workers checked regularly).

According to the government guideline, foreign workers must first undergo blood test before they are allowed to work here.

Apart from HIV and Hepatitis B, foreign workers must be free of malaria and also drugs.