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VARIOUS stakeholders want a meeting with Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Dr Shahidan Kassim to discuss the hard liquor sales restriction that will now take effect on Nov 1.

Initially set to be enforced on Oct 1, the prohibition to sell hard liquor in sundry shops, convenience stores and Chinese medicine halls in Kuala Lumpur has been postponed by a month.

The new ruling includes a ban on the sale of liquor by businesses located near police stations, places of worship, schools and hospitals.

On Sept 30, Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) said in a statement that the postponement was to finalise the study on the control of liquor sales in the city.

The stakeholders think this postponement will help in their cause to convince DBKL to review the guidelines.

Federation of Sundry Goods Merchants Association of Malaysia president Hong Chee Meng said they would push for a meeting with DBKL.

"To say the sale of hard liquor at sundry shops will be detrimental to

'More discussion needed over hard liquor sales ban'

Concerned parties want DBKL to review guideline

the community is unfair to us.

"What DBKL is referring to is *samsu*, a cheap intoxicating liquor that is illegal.

"DBKL should differentiate this from commercial liquor brands that have been taxed and gone through Customs.

"We welcome the move to ban the sale of *samsu* but not commercial brands," he said.

Hong said the association would continue to push for a meeting with Shahidan and DBKL on the matter in hopes of finding a favourable solution for all parties.

Federal Territory and Selangor Chinese Medicine Association presi-

dent Loh Kim Fong, however, said the postponement did not help the matter.

"Many members have been affected and our stock cannot be cleared because of the movement control order."

"There is also no proper guideline for us on the use of liquor for medicinal purpose," he said and hoped for clarification from DBKL.

Seputeh MP Teresa Kok welcomed the postponement of the liquor sales restriction guidelines.

"I hope the minister will engage with the affected industry and those who oppose liquor sales, and make a win-win decision," she said.



Chinese medicine shops in Kuala Lumpur have until the end of the month to sell liquor. — Filepic