

MMA urges docs to accept posts in Sarawak

By Wara Zulkiflee - July 20, 2023 @ 5:18pm



The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) says doctors must uphold their responsibility as civil servants and accept the jobs offered before appealing to reject the posts. - NSTP file pic

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) has called on doctors to accept posts in Sarawak should they be offered any by the Health Ministry.

MMA president Dr Muruga Raj Rajathurai, in a statement, said doctors must uphold their responsibility as civil servants and accept the jobs offered before appealing to reject the posts.

"The MMA calls the doctors concerned to accept the offer and report to work there.

"We wish to remind these doctors that as civil servants, there are rules and regulations in their appointments that they have a duty and responsibility to adhere to.

"An appeal can be sent but first accept the post and report for duty."

This comes after Deputy Health Minister Lukanisman Awang Sauni had revealed recently that more than 200 doctors have failed to report for work or rejected contract positions to serve in Sarawak.

He had said there were 800 doctors that were offered posts there by the Health Ministry.

Dr Muruga, however, also said the Health Ministry should consider rejection appeals by doctors with solid reasons.

"We could not agree more that Sarawak is in need of more doctors. However, we urge the Health Ministry to also take into consideration appeals made by doctors with valid reasons for not accepting the posts."

Meanwhile, Dr Muruga said MMA remains optimistic as 600 doctors had accepted postings in Sarawak.

"Two hundred doctors, or 25 per cent, is a high rejection rate... however, we view the 75 per cent (600 doctors) accepting their posts as encouraging news."