

Malaysia

MMA: Doctors, facing dim prospects at home, venture abroad

BY JOHN BUNYAN
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A report in UK's 'Daily Mail' found that 1,548 Malaysian doctors were working in the UK's National Health Service (NHS) as of last September. — AFP pic

September.

He also said the possibility of pursuing specialist study could be another reason why Malaysian doctors preferred to work abroad, such as in the UK.

"The doctors might be doing their post-graduate studies or specialist programme there, while at the same time, they could also temporarily work as a doctor.

"The money the doctors earn from the job could cover their studies and other expenses," he added.

When asked for comment, Health Ministry director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah told *Malay Mail* to refer questions to the NHS.

Daily Mail also reported that 2,201 Malaysians were registered as NHS staff as of September 2017.

However, the nature of the jobs these Malaysians held in the UK's public health service, apart from doctors, was unclear.

Although there is a reported surplus of doctors and medical graduates in Malaysia, the country reportedly suffers a lack of specialist doctors.

IPOH, Feb 12 — Poor employment terms and promotion prospects in Malaysia could be the reason why local doctors are practising abroad, the Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) said.

"Doctors will definitely look out for their own best interests.

"If terms of medical service and prospects of promotion are poor here, surely they will look to work elsewhere," MMA president Dr Ravindran R. Naidu told *Malay Mail* when contacted.

Dr Ravindran was commenting on the United Kingdom's *Daily Mail* report which stated that 1,548 Malaysian doctors were working in the UK's National Health Service (NHS) as of last