

Give contract doctors 10-year extension, MMA urges govt

NATION 

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KUALA LUMPUR: The government's decision to extend contract doctors' term for another six months is welcomed but this short-term solution does not address the issue of career continuity and opportunity, says the Malaysian Medical Association (MMA).

Its president Dr N. Ganabaskaran said the MMA's Section Concerning House Officers and Medical Officers (Schomos) had asked for an extended contract for a total of 10 years.

"This is for contract MOs (medical officers) to allow for specialisation and gazettement before absorption as permanent staff for successful specialists," he said in a statement on Thursday (April 16).

He said this should be done to meet the much-needed specialist services in the country.

On Wednesday (April 15), Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba said the government had approved the extension of contracts for medical, dentistry, pharmaceutical officers for an additional period of six months.

Dr Ganabaskaran said that the Health Ministry had previously requested 22,500 positions, but only 10,000 were granted, leaving a shortfall.

"The government needs to ensure that the growth of the healthcare services to meet the population growth is matched with an increase in permanent positions.

"This is to ensure that services are not compromised," he said.

TAGS / KEYWORDS:

MMA , **Health Ministry** , **Contract Extension** , **Contract Doctors** , **Healthcare**

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