

Doctors Are Willing To Serve, But The Government Must Show It Cares – MMA

By CodeBlue | 25 July 2023

The Malaysian Medical Association urges the government to minimise the impact of doctor relocations, such as to consider a reasonable placement allowance for relocating doctors and adequate notice to report for duty from the date of the placement letter.



Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) president Dr Muruga Raj Rajathurai. Picture from MMA.

The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) calls on the government to empathise with doctors who have been posted to another state.

While we recognise that doctors should be posted where their services are required, the challenges these doctors face in relocating to another state, (for some, at short notice) should be taken into consideration.

As the health care of the *rakyat* is a top priority, and as these transfers can have an impact on public health care services, the MMA calls for the following:

- Ensure that there is no disruption of health care services at any health care centres whilst facilitating relocations.
- Ensure the training of medical officers undergoing specialist training is not affected.
- Consider a reasonable placement allowance for doctors who have been instructed to relocate as they will be providing an essential service.
- Adequate notice should be given to report for duty from date of placement letter, with the exact facility made known to the officers.
- Allow the medical officers who have served for a stipulated time in Sabah and Sarawak to apply for a transfer, while ensuring transparency in its process.
- Simplify the process of transfer application.

In the long run, we have to improve our health care worker distribution system to ensure that the Ministry of Health is able to meet the health care needs of the Malaysian population.

Dr Muruga Raj Rajathurai is the president of the Malaysian Medical Association.