

Putrajaya urged to quickly revise on-call allowance of doctors

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Doctors in public healthcare have not seen a revision in their on-call allowance for more than a decade. – The Malaysian Insight file pic, August 27, 2024.

THE government is urged to immediately revise the on-call allowance rate for public healthcare doctors.

The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) said the current rate of RM9.16 per hour has remained unchanged for more than a decade.

MMA president Dr Azizan Abdul Aziz said the association had proposed a new hourly rate of RM25. She expressed hope for a speedy review following the government's recent decision to raise the salaries of civil servants, including healthcare workers.

“Doctors in public healthcare have not seen a revision in their on-call allowance for over a decade,” she said in a statement.

“The MMA had engaged with past health ministers, the present health minister, and several ministry officials concerning the matter and proposed that the hourly on-call rate be increased to RM25 from the current RM9.16 per hour.”

She said Health Minister Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad had stated in February that the new on-call allowance rate would be announced “soon,”.

“Doctors in public healthcare have been eagerly awaiting this announcement,” she added.

Dr Azizan said it was crucial to raise the on-call allowance to recognise the contributions of medical professionals. She said the revision is vital to ensuring fair compensation for doctors in the public healthcare system, which is essential for their welfare, sustaining morale, and retaining talent within the healthcare workforce.

Earlier this week, Hartal Doktor Kontrak also urged the government to revise the on-call allowance for government doctors. The group highlighted that the allowance, last reviewed in 2012, was no longer adequate because of the heavier responsibilities of medical professionals and inflation. – August 26, 2024.