

Thousands of doctors practising without practising certs - Report

By New Straits Times

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A spokesman for Hartal Doktor Kontrak said an application submitted on Nov 20 has yet to be approved. - NSTP FILE PIC

KUALA LUMPUR: Thousands of doctors are currently practising medicine without valid Annual Practising Certificates (APC), as the Malaysian Medical Council (MMC) has yet to approve their renewal applications, claims a report.

Without a valid APC, medical practitioners are not permitted to provide medical services, Utusan Malaysia reported today.

A spokesman for Hartal Doktor Kontrak said an application submitted on Nov 20 has yet to be approved, despite the usual one-to-two-week processing period.

The group was reportedly informed that thousands of applications have remained under review since mid-November last year.

"In a Facebook group for general practitioners, thousands of doctors reported they still have not received their APC for 2026."

The application process is conducted entirely online through the MMC MeRITS portal.

The Hartal Doktor Kontrak spokesman said medico-legal issues may disadvantage practitioners as insurance providers could potentially reject patient claims on the grounds that a doctor does not have a valid APC.

Yesterday, Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) president Datuk Dr Thirunavukarasu Rajoo said practising medicine without a valid APC is an offence under Section 20(1) of the Medical Act, even if renewal requirements have been met.

"For private specialists, hospitals and medical institutions require a valid APC due to high medico-legal exposure, including vicarious liability, where institutions may be held accountable if an unlicensed doctor practises within their facilities," he said.

"The MMC must assure that doctors who have submitted all required documents, including

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points and fee payments, are allowed to continue practising without penalty.

In a statement on its website, the MMC said it is receiving a very high volume of APC applications, resulting in longer approval times.

"Any medical practitioner who has successfully made payment for their APC application before Dec 1, 2025, will not be subject to any penalty."

It is estimated that more than 70,000 doctors are required to renew their APCs this year.