

MMA: Scam targeting junior doctors at HTA reflects systemic failure

By Putri Najihah Yazit | April 6, 2026 @ 1:40pm

We recommend restoring the 300-litre monthly fuel subsidy quota, or implementing a specific exemption, for health care workers who are required to be physically present for duty in MOH. Policies must remain equitable and grounded in operational realities.



The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) has described a scam involving a government hospital staff member allegedly defrauding junior doctors as a systemic failure in the healthcare system. - FB/Hospital Tunku Azizah

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) has described a scam involving a government hospital staff member allegedly defrauding junior doctors as a systemic failure in the healthcare system.

The MMA's comments follow an incident at Tunku Azizah Hospital (HTA) involving 190

house officers, for which a police report has been lodged.

MMA president Datuk Thirunavukarasu Rajoo, in a press statement today, said the case reflects a breakdown in administrative safeguards that placed junior doctors in a vulnerable position.

"When a large number of house officers are affected over a period of time, it reflects a systemic failure, not just individual misconduct," he said, adding that the association has called for a full, transparent investigation into the matter.

He said MMA supports both the ongoing police investigation and a separate independent internal inquiry.

"While the police will address any alleged criminal elements, an internal inquiry must examine how this was allowed to occur within the workplace, including gaps in administrative processes, supervision and escalation," he said.

He added that the case highlighted structural vulnerabilities, noting that junior doctors operate in a hierarchical environment with limited visibility over administrative and payroll processes.

"This creates a risk of compliance without verification when instructions appear to come from authorised personnel," he said.

He said safeguards must be strengthened, including strict adherence to official payment channels, stronger internal controls and audit mechanisms, clear administrative accountability, safe reporting pathways, and proper orientation for house officers.

He added that affected house officers should not bear any financial losses arising from the incident.

"Trust in the system must be supported by safeguards, not assumed," he said, adding that the priority now is accountability, system correction and preventing recurrence.

Yesterday, in a statement, HTA said the Malaysia Short-Term Employment Programme (MySTEP) personnel suspected of involvement in the scam have been terminated, and all access to hospital systems has been revoked.

"The case has been reported to the police, and a full investigation is underway. HTA will cooperate fully with the authorities to ensure the process is transparent and fair.

"A face-to-face session with the affected house officers was held to address their concerns and gather detailed transaction information to support the investigation," the statement added.