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MMA urges MOH to resolve contract pharmacy officers' status

By New Straits Times

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) has urged the Health Ministry (MOH) to urgently resolve the contract pharmacy officers' reserve status issue affecting 730 officers from the July 2024 intake.

Its president, Datuk Dr Thirunavukarasu Rajoo, said the association "strongly supports the call for the immediate reinstatement of the 'reserve candidate' status" for the affected officers.

He added that the MOH should "expedite the permanent appointment process to ensure these officers do not face contract expiries in 2026."

The MMA said that the importance of clear and transparent communication from the ministry regarding the steps being taken to resolve the matter, including whether contracts would be extended while officers await permanent absorption.

"Such clarity is essential to safeguard the morale and well-being of these officers and to uphold the stability of Malaysia's healthcare workforce," Dr Thirunavukarasu said in a statement today.

The association highlighted that Malaysia's healthcare human resources remain among the nation's most valuable assets.

Ensuring fair treatment, consistent processes, and strong human resource governance is vital for retaining experienced professionals and sustaining the quality of public healthcare services.

Losing these officers due to administrative shortcomings could significantly disrupt service delivery and impact patient care.

Dr Thirunavukarasu called on the MOH to act "swiftly, decisively, and transparently" to address the issue, stressing that all healthcare professionals must feel valued and supported for their dedication to public service.

The MMA also said that the matter had been raised in the Dewan Negara by Senator Dr RA Lingeshwaran, underlining its urgency at the federal level.

With thousands of contract healthcare staff serving across the country, the MMA warned that delays or ambiguities in employment status could affect morale, retention, and the operational stability of hospitals and clinics nationwide.