

Govt to solve contract doctors' issues within 3 years, says PM

KUALA LUMPUR: The government is committed to resolving long-standing issues faced by contract doctors in holding permanent positions within three years.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the government was taking into account the financial implications and was looking to solve the issues in stages.

“So far, the total number of contract medical officers is 20,330. Of the total, almost 12,800 contract medical officers have completed their housemanship.

“The government is committed

to absorb 12,800 contract doctors within three years and this year, almost 4,300 contract medical officers have received permanent positions,” he told the Lower House during the prime minister’s question time yesterday.

Anwar was responding to a question by Datuk Seri Madius Tangau (PH-Tuaran) on the total number of contract medical officers in the public service and the financial implications involved if they were absorbed into a permanent position.

Anwar said the number of re-

maining contract doctors to hold permanent positions in the civil service by 2025 was expected to involve an additional allocation of RM1.7 billion.

“I would like to inform the House that even though the permanent appointments for the contract doctors are made, the Health Ministry will continue to hire contract doctors for housemanship purposes.

“This will also involve an increase in the Health Ministry’s emoluments annually.”

Anwar said the 2023 Budget

had agreed to provide an emolument allocation of RM19.7 billion to the Health Ministry, an increment of almost RM3 billion compared with the 2022 Budget.

He said the increase was for the rise in annual salary of 288,740 current positions in the Health Ministry at RM1.2 billion; additional allowances for contract doctors of RM600 million; and, appointments to permanent positions at contract officers with an additional financial implication of RM1.1 billion, including doctors, pharmacists and dental officers.