

VACANCIES NOT FILLED

Speed up hiring of over 4,000 doctors, urges PM

PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has directed the Health Ministry to cut red tape and speed up the hiring of more than 4,000 government doctors, including contract appointments.

Unity government spokesman Datuk Fahmi Fadzil said the prime minister raised the matter during

yesterday's cabinet meeting.

"The prime minister brought up the issue of the 4,000 doctor vacancies that have yet to be filled, and this was conveyed to cabinet members today (yesterday), especially the health minister.

"The prime minister has requested that any bureaucratic processes that may be causing

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delays be expedited," he told a press conference yesterday.

Fahmi added that the Health Ministry had initially expected the vacancies to be filled by November, but Anwar said that would be too late, so the process would be expedited.

"The health minister has given his commitment that the process

will be simplified without compromising procedural integrity," he said.

On Wednesday, in a special announcement, the prime minister said more than 4,000 vacancies would be created for government doctors, including contract-appointed medical officers, this year.

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Anwar emphasised the urgent need for doctors in the healthcare sector, confirming that 4,325 new doctors, including those on contract, would be hired this year to enhance service delivery.

He said the government had increased the number of posts to ensure the people receive the best healthcare.