

PM to give Malaysians pleasant surprise

THE SUN
16 JUL 2025

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➤ Hint of nationwide 'gesture of appreciation' sparks excitement as chief secretary to the government teases news that promises to lift spirits

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KUALA LUMPUR: A major announcement is brewing and it is set to lift spirits across the nation, especially among civil servants.

Chief Secretary to the

Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar dropped a hint that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's upcoming reveal will be a pleasant surprise.

"It's a surprise, but one that will make the people happy.

"If it's for civil servants, then it'll

definitely bring them joy, God willing," he said.

The buzz began after Anwar posted a cryptic teaser on Facebook, promising an "extraordinary gesture of appreciation for Malaysians".

"I'm no magician, just wait. It's a surprise," Shamsul Azri quipped.

He made the remarks after opening Azman Hashim International Business School's Third International Action Research Conference 2025 at the World Trade Centre yesterday.

A similar teaser was also shared by the Public Service Department, fuelling speculation, but Shamsul Azri refused to spill more, urging

everyone to be patient.

Shamsul Azri also confirmed Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Onn Hafiz Ghazi and Health Minister Dzulkefly Ahmad met on Monday to discuss the critical manpower shortage affecting Johor's public healthcare system. The discussion was at the sidelines of the menteri besar and chief ministers' meeting which was chaired by the prime minister in Putrajaya.

On Monday, Onn Hafiz posted on Facebook that the shortage must be addressed to reduce the strain on the public healthcare system.

He said a recent spot check at Johor's Hospital Sultan Ismail with state health and environment committee chairman Ling Tian Soon revealed alarming gaps in manpower, placing immense strain on the system.

"The lack of staff across key categories like specialist doctors, medical officers, assistant medical officers, nurses and support personnel is a concerning reality.

"This is impacting not only the morale of our frontliners but also the quality of care for patients."

Onn Hafiz highlighted examples where nurses were required to care for 10 to 14 patients in a single shift, far beyond the ideal nurse-to-patient ratio of 1:6 or 1:8 at the most.

"This is not only unfair to our medical staff but also dangerous for patients if the situation is not addressed."

Onn Hafiz stressed that the state government will continue to provide urgent support in terms of facilities and medical resources, while also escalating the issue to the Health Ministry and other relevant agencies.

"I will personally appeal for the immediate filling of vacant healthcare positions without compromise," he said.



Azman Hashim International Business School dean Prof Dr Rosmini Omar and Shamsul Azri (with songkok) during a walkabout at the sidelines of the Third International Action Research Conference at the World Trade Centre yesterday.

— ADIB RAWI YAHYA/THESUN