AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA
MUKA SURAT : 9
RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

Utusan Malaysia m/s 9 Dl Negeri 17/5/2025 (Sabtu)

Muktamadkan segera isu tempoh bekerja jururawat 45 jam seminggu

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PETALING JAYA: Keputusan berhubung pelaksanaan waktu bekerja 45 jam seminggu bagi jururawat dan petugas syif kesihatan perlu dimuktamadkan segera bagi memastikan kebajikan dan kesejahteraan mereka terjamin.

Gesaan itu disuarakan Kesatuan Jururawat Malaya (MNU) yang menolak sebarang pelaksanaan dasar tersebut selagi pelbagai isu melibatkan kebajikan jururawat belum diselesaikan secara menyeluruh.

Presidennya, Saaidah Athman berkata, struktur perkhidmatan kesihatan negara masih jauh ketinggalan berbanding negara jiran seperti Thailand, Filipina dan Indonesia, khususnya dari segi kebajikan serta pengurusan sumber manusia dalam sektor kesihatan.

Menurut beliau, sebarang keputusan yang bakal dimuktamadkan kerajaan perlu mengambil kira suara serta kebajikan jururawat secara menyeluruh demi menjamin kelangsungan dan mutu perkhidmatan kesihatan negara.

"Petugas kesihatan adalah aset penting kepada Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM), manakala jururawat pula merupakan nadi dan jantung kepada sistem penjagaan kesihatan negara. Soalnya, apakah akan berlaku sekiranya jantung ini gagal berfungsi?

"Untuk memastikan KKM terus bersaing dan memberikan perkhidmatan terbaik, petugas kesihatan perlu berada dalam keadaan fizikal dan mental yang optimum," katanya kepada *Utusan Malaysia*.

Sebelum ini, *Utusan Malaysia* melaporkan moratorium kepada tempoh interim pelaksanaan waktu bekerja selama 45 jam membabitkan golongan jururawat KKM dilanjutkan sebulan lagi, sebelum rumusan sesi libat urus dibentangkan kepada Kabinet pada 1 Julai depan.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr. Dzulkefly Ahmad berkata, tempoh pelanjutan moratorium itu membolehkan pihaknya untuk meneliti pelbagai aspek melibatkan petugas kesihatan terutamanya membabitkan isu kebajikan.

Mengulas lanjut, Saaidah merakamkan penghargaan kepada Dr. Dzulkefly atas keprihatinan beliau terhadap nasib jururawat dan petugas kesihatan.

Namun, katanya, masih terdapat pelbagai isu penting melibatkan nasib jururawat yang memerlukan penyelesaian segera.

Antara perkara utama yang dibangkitkan termasuk struktur gaji yang tidak seimbang dengan beban tugas, kadar Bayaran Insentif Pos Basik (BIPB) yang kekal RM100 sejak 18 tahun lalu serta kemerosotan kebajikan anggota.

"Elaun perjalanan, bayaran kerja lebih masa serta ketiadaan elaun *on-call* untuk jururawat juga menjadi isu berlarutan.

"Kemudahan fasiliti dan peralatan kesihatan yang uzur dan tidak mencukupi turut menjejaskan mutu perkhidmatan," katanya.

Saaidah berkata, jururawat di negara ini turut jauh ketinggalan dari segi imbuhan berbanding negara-negara lain.

"Elaun pos-basik di negara ini hanya RM100. Sebagai perbandingan, di Singapura jururawat boleh menerima sehingga RM3,000 sebulan, di hospital swasta tempatan seperti KPJ sekitar RM250, manakala di negara-negara Arab pula boleh mencecah RM3,000.

"Perkara ini merupakan realiti yang wajar diberi perhatian serius oleh pihak kementerian demi memastikan kebajikan jururawat tidak terus terabai," katanya.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 7
RUANGAN : NATION

The Star m/s 7 Nation 17/5/2025 (Sabtu)

Check if medicines are real

Online market rife with fake pharmaceutical products

By CHARLES RAMENDRAN and RAGANANTHINI VETHASALAM
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PETALING JAYA: School teacher S. Anandi bought a supplement from an online platform because it was RM20 cheaper than the retail price at a pharmacy.

The supplement turned out to be counterfeit although it looked identical to the original product.

She said the supplement bought online even came with a fake hologram.

She used an app called FarmaChecker which can scan product holograms on health-related products.

The FarmaTag hologram on genuine supplements is a stamp from the Health Ministry as proof that a product has been registered and approved by the local health authorities.

The app Anandi used could not read the hologram sticker on the supplement.

This means the hologram is fake and not approved by the Health Ministry.

"I bought the supplement because it was cheaper online. But upon scanning it, I discovered that the product was fake," she said.

The online health supplement market is flooded with counterfeit products.

Sellers even create replicas of the hologram, said industry sources.

Despite the Health Ministry having moved from the Meditag to the FarmaTag hologram which has better security features, the sale of counterfeit and illicit pharmaceutical products is showing no sign of slowing down.

"Holograms can be duplicated and we have seen them over the years, even from the Meditag days. Some illegal health product sellers even use a replica of the old Meditag hologram.

"Recently, there is a trend where sellers would mix their own supplement powders and pills. Some of these powders are filled with sugar and that is worrying.

"To the Health Ministry's credit, it has been carrying out crackdowns on many unregistered and illicit products over the years," said a source, adding that the illegal trade is still flourishing.

"Many consumers are unaware of an app to check whether the health supplements are genuine or not.

"In fact, some people don't even bother to check whether the product they have purchased is authentic. They get swayed by claims that it works.

"More awareness and education campaigns should be carried out on the use of holograms and National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency (NPRA) registration numbers.

"Maybe the authorities should think of a new authentication method such as QR code," the source said.

Consumers can download the NPRA Product Status app to check the status of Pharmaceutical Product Registration and Cosmetic Notification Status.

The Health Ministry used the Meditag hologram supplied by Syarikat Mediharta Sdn Bhd from 2005 until Aug 31, 2019.

The hologram was supplied to manufacturers and importers licensed by the ministry to ensure there was no abuse.

It was later replaced with FarmaTag produced by Syarikat Techno Secure Print Sdn Bhd.

Malaysian Community Pharmacy Guild honorary secretary Rachel Gan advised the public to use the FarmaChecker app to check the authenticity of a product if they feel suspicious about it.

"Always buy from legitimate sellers like pharmacies or clinics, instead of unknown sellers on e-commerce platforms," she added.

Malaysian Dietary Supplement Association president Datuk Dr M. Rajen said there are concerns over the authenticity, safety, shelf life and possible side effects of the supplements sold on online platforms.

"As an industry, we welcome the use of holograms. But there have been concerns on their viability to prevent abuse. Often, while the companies are paying for the holograms, some consumers are unaware about the benefits of the holograms," he added.

He called for a ban on the sale of health supplements online as what is done for certain medicines.

"You cannot buy your pharmaceuticals online but you can buy your supplements online," he said, adding that this is a regulation loophole that needs to be looked into.

General practitioner Dr Roland Victor said fake medications or supplements often contain ineffective ingredients that pose a danger to health or unsuitable for local consumption.

"We have seen cases of certain coffee powders being promoted as a natural supplement for men's health but were found to contain controlled substances like sildenafil, the active ingredient in erectile dysfunction drugs," he said.

"Sellers of counterfeit supplements may exploit the image of genuine doctors in their advertisements and claim that they are endorsing their products."

How to identify registered drugs and supplements

1 Users can check the registration status of a product through https://www.npra.gov.my or by contacting the National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency at 03-78835400

3 Use the FarmaChecker App to scan the authenticity of the FarmaTag hologram

2 Must have a valid registration number beginning with "MAL"

Followed by an 8-digit number and ending with an alphabet to indicate their registration category

4 Download the NPRA Product Status App to check registration status

The categories of registered products are as follows:

A	X	T	N	H
Controlled medicines	Over the counter medicines (OTC)	Natural Products/ Traditional Medicines	Health Supplements	Veterinary Products

Source: Health Ministry's Pharmaceutical Services Programme

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