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## Docs on warpath over transfers

October 28, 2015, 10:03 pm

by Dilanthi Jayamanne

The Government Medical Officers' Association (GMOA) yesterday warned they would lodge complaints against officials of the Health Ministry and hospital administrators with the Public Service and Human Rights Commissions for failing to implement doctors' annual transfers.

GMOA Secretary, Dr Nalinda Herath said there were about 4,000 doctors who had received transfer orders, but a majority of them serving mainly big hospitals had not taken up the new postings, while there was a threat of peripheral hospitals being forced to shut down due to a shortage of doctors.

He said that it was the duty of the Health Ministry to maintain the quality of the health services provided in government hospitals. One way of doing it was to ensure the implementation of annual transfers. The failure, he said, not only denied rural population the benefit of being treated by experienced doctors who had served at major hospitals but also caused them to seek treatment from quacks.

The GMOA said there was a backlog of transfers to be implemented from 2012 to this year. In 2012 there were 45 medical officers (MOs) who failed to take up their transfers. The number gradually increased to 285 in 2013, 890 in 2014 and 1755 in 2015.



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