



NEWSLETTER

GOVERNMENT MEDICAL OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

June 2025 to December 2025



GOVERNMENT MEDICAL OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION
ORGANIZATION OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS
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Editorial

Strengthening the Collective Voice of Doctors

With the publication of this quarterly GMOA Newsletter, we wish to express our sincere appreciation to all members whose dedication and unity continue to strengthen our Association.

GMOA remains the only union for protecting the professional rights, welfare, and dignity of Government medical officers, while working to advance the nation's health services. In an era of constant and growing challenges, GMOA ensures that the views and interests of medical officers are represented with clarity and respect.

The strength of the GMOA is the active participation of its members across the country. Each contribution, large or small strengthens our collective voice. As we move forward, let us continue to stay united and engaged, drawing inspiration from our shared purpose to uphold the standards of our profession and to serve the people of Sri Lanka with integrity and compassion.

One Voice, One Vision: GMOA Stands Firm for an Apolitical Union

Team for GMOA Reaffirms Mandate for an Apolitical and Unified Profession

The GMOA election concluded with a decisive victory, as Team for GMOA retained leadership with over 60 percent of the vote. The renewed mandate reflects trust in a leadership that prioritizes policy over politics and service over self. Under the leadership of Dr. Sanjeewa Tennekone (President) and Dr. Prabath Sugathadasa (Secretary). GMOA has steadfastly defended the independence of the profession and the collective welfare of its members.

“We are an apolitical union; we exist to serve doctors, not to divide them.” – Team for GMOA

Standing for Professional Integrity, Independence, and Inclusivity

In an era where professional organizations often face political influence, Team for GMOA has upheld its independence and transparency. Thus, the GMOA maintains its standing as a trusted voice in Sri Lanka’s healthcare landscape.

WAY FOWARD

The new Executive Committee begins its tenure at a pivotal moment for Sri Lanka’s healthcare sector. Team for GMOA’s vision for the term ahead includes:

- Preserving the independence and integrity of the Association.
- Strengthening solidarity across regional branches.
- Mentoring the next generation with ethics and leadership.
- Promoting gender inclusivity in decision-making.
- Enhancing the GMOA’s role in shaping national health policy.

As the GMOA approaches its centenary in 2026, it continues to represent unity, independence, and service, carrying forward a proud legacy built over a century.

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Dr. Prabath Sugathadasa



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Gunathilake



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Liyanage

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Heal the System That Heals the Nation

Strengthening the Foundation of Sri Lanka's Free Healthcare System

Sri Lanka's free healthcare system stands as one of the nation's most valued public assets, being a globally recognized model of equity and compassion that has served generations. Sustained through the dedication and professionalism of doctors and other healthcare workers, it has continued to function despite formidable economic and social challenges.

Today, this system faces unprecedented strain. Shortages in human resources, essential drugs and consumables, and inadequate patient care facilities have threatened its sustainability. Addressing these challenges requires both immediate and long-term reforms aimed at rebuilding strength, resilience, and public confidence

To safeguard the future of the free healthcare system, the Government Medical Officers' Association (GMOA) has outlined a series of focused strategies:

Retaining specialists and doctors

by ensuring fair working conditions, economic justice, and professional security.

Stabilizing the supply chain

of essential medicines and consumables through sound short- and long-term strategies..

Protecting healthcare professionals

by establishing legislative and institutional measures that ensure their safety and wellbeing.

Expanding the medical cadre

through accurate workforce planning that meets current and future service demands.

Enhancing postgraduate and continuous professional development

opportunities to improve quality of care.

Upgrading facilities and infrastructure

for doctors and staff, including quarters, transport, and essential amenities..

Improving hospital infrastructure for patients

ensuring comfort, sanitation, and an environment conducive to healing.

Strengthening primary healthcare services

through comprehensive planning and feasibility studies to improve accessibility.

GMOA PROPOSES KEY REFORMS FOR BUDGET 2026

A Blueprint for Sustainability, Professional Dignity, and a Stronger Health System

The Government Medical Officers' Association (GMOA) has presented a comprehensive set of proposals to Hon. Anura Kumara Disanayake, Minister of Finance, ahead of the 2026 National Budget. These proposals focus on strengthening Sri Lanka's free healthcare system, retaining skilled doctors, and enhancing professional welfare in line with the nation's evolving healthcare needs.

Sri Lanka's free healthcare model is recognized internationally for delivering high-quality services at low cost. This relies on the dedication of its medical professionals. The GMOA emphasized that retaining doctors within the country and in government service is vital to maintain the continuity and equity of care.



FISCAL AND POLICY REFORMS

GMOA urged a reduction in income tax rates for professionals, exemption of DAT and Extra Duty allowances from taxable income, and recognition of doctors as a distinct professional tax category.

Looking ahead, the GMOA also proposed Centers of Excellence, the introduction of Clinical Travel Medicine as a postgraduate discipline, and sabbatical opportunities to generate foreign income and strengthen the knowledge economy.

“Retaining doctors within the country and within government service is essential to sustain free, equitable healthcare for all,”

KEY PROPOSALS

- Introducing an exclusive service category and salary structure for doctors.
- Revising the DAT allowance to Rs. 260,000 per month, with biennial updates.
- Converting Extra Duty allowances into a fixed monthly payment to streamline administration.
- Extending Circular 22/99 transport benefits to all grade medical officers.
- Providing low-interest housing and personal loans, and restoring duty concessionary vehicle permits.

The GMOA further proposed revising foreign living allowances for postgraduate trainees, restoring the research allowance to 35% of basic salary, and simplifying the claiming process to promote a stronger research culture.

EQUITY IN SERVICE BEGINS WITH FAIRNESS IN TRANSFERS.



The GMOA Transfer Board Subcommittee took decisive action this year to address the prolonged delay in activating transfer orders concerning the 2025 post-intern batch, illegal and irregular omission of 78 posts from the 2025 Annual Transfer List and the undue delay in 2022/10/27 difficult station list.

In solidarity, both post-intern and difficult-station medical officers gathered at the GMOA Headquarters in August 24th 2025, expressing unity and collective resolve. Through the GMOA's strong advocacy and persistent negotiations with the Ministry of Health, both transfer orders were activated promptly, and the 393 difficult stations were reinstated.

This victory reaffirms the GMOA's steadfast commitment to justice, equity, and the welfare of all medical officers across the country.



GMOA ACTS TO SAFEGUARD FAIR GOVERNANCE AT BASE HOSPITAL DEHIATTAKANDIYA



In October 2025, the GMOA branch at Dehiattakandiya Base Hospital initiated trade-union action in response to the irregular transfer of two medical officers due to arbitrary administrative interference. Doctors began their protest on 1st October, maintaining essential and emergency services while demanding the immediate cancellation of the transfers. As authorities failed to provide a satisfactory response, the strike expanded to include several hospitals in the Ampara District, significantly disrupting outpatient and routine services. Following mounting concern, the Ministry of Health appointed a four-member committee on 2 October to investigate the issue and ensure due process in future transfer decisions. The GMOA reaffirms that trade-union action is undertaken only as a last resort when fairness, professionalism, and workplace integrity are compromised.

A LESSON IN PROFESSIONAL UNITY: TRADE UNION ACTION AT RATNAPURA TEACHING HOSPITAL



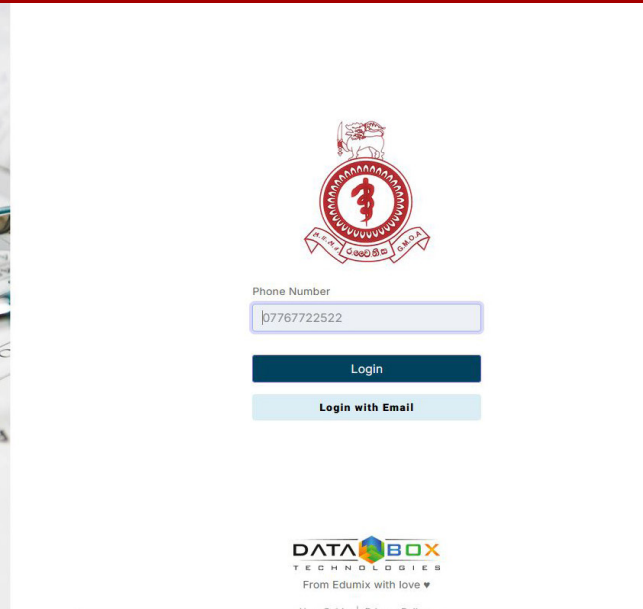
In early September 2025, Government Medical Officers' Association (GMOA) branch of Ratnapura Teaching Hospital launched a trade-union action in response to alleged misconduct and administrative irregularities by the hospital director. Doctors cited continuous harassment, obstruction of clinical duties, and unsafe working conditions caused by external interference within the hospital premises. The branch initiated a token strike on 2nd September, maintaining emergency and essential services. As authorities failed to address their grievances, the action escalated to a full 24-hour stoppage. After several rounds of discussions and growing public concern, the Ministry of Health intervened. On 4th September, a transfer order was issued for the hospital director to the central ministry, following which the GMOA branch decided to call off the strike.

TOWARDS A SAFER WORKING ENVIRONMENT FOR SRI LANKAN DOCTORS



The safety and workplace security of healthcare professionals, particularly doctors, have become an urgent concern in Sri Lanka. In this light, the GMOA convened a steering committee and developed a Conceptual proposal to enhance the safety and workplace security of doctors working in Sri Lanka

GMOA TO LAUNCH LMS PLATFORM FOR CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



The Academic Subcommittee of the Government Medical Officers' Association (GMOA) is taking a significant step forward with the introduction of a dedicated Learning Management System (LMS) exclusively for its members.

From 2026 onwards, all academic lectures conducted by the GMOA Academic Subcommittee will be available through this LMS platform. This initiative is designed to enhance the Academic Hour Programme by providing each member with a personalized profile to record CPD points, monitor academic progress, and showcase professional achievements in a structured and accessible manner.

Through the LMS, members will be able to join live academic sessions and receive CPD certificates, access previous lectures and obtain CPD certificates, and maintain a comprehensive digital record of all future academic certificates. All academic certificates issued through upcoming programmes will be uploaded directly to individual LMS accounts, enabling members to maintain an organized and verifiable academic portfolio.

This initiative marks a new chapter in the GMOA's commitment to fostering continuous professional development, academic excellence, and career advancement among its membership.

Academic Subcommittee
GMOA



Registration for the LMS is now open at:

<https://forms.gle/g8DpLBpay42SxtTKA>