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Brazilian Municipalities Still without Doctors

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Brasilia, Dec 14 (Prensa Latina) About 3,000 candidates who signed up for the Mais Medicos (More Doctors) program in Brazil have not yet showed up for work in municipalities in which they were assigned to, Folha de Sao Paulo newspaper says on Friday.

The tripartite commission, made up of representatives from the municipalities, the states and the Union, that work with the program told journalist Mônica Bergamo who writes for GGN newspaper.

The deadline for doctors to start working ends on Friday. A total of 8,517 posts were opened after Cuban professionals withdrew from that initiative after President-elect Jair Bolsonaro questioned their professionalism and made derogatory statements against them.

According to Bergamo, the high number of people that initially enrolled to replace the Cuban doctors excited Bolsonaro, who 'posted on Twitter that almost 100 percent of the posts (from Cuban doctors) were already filled by Brazilian physicians.'

However, only '60 percent of them have so far been covered', the journalist wrote.

A second issue lies on the fact that a good part of the more than 4,000 Brazilian doctors who already showed up at work will leave the posts as of March, when the country's medical residences begin, Bergamo explains.

GGN newspaper states that the professionals report difficulties and errors in the Program Management System website of the Ministry of Health that are preventing registration in More Doctors program.

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