

# You can count on us, private hospitals tell govt

NATION 

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PETALING JAYA: Private hospitals say they are ready to assist the government on the Covid-19 situation while also urging the government to stop the export of personal protective equipment (PPE) and face masks.

Association of Private Hospitals of Malaysia (APHM) president Datuk Dr Kuljit Singh (*pic*) said its member hospitals are ready to coordinate the management of Covid-19 patients so as to not overburden the public healthcare sector, and to assist in terms of equipment and manpower.

“The Health Ministry met with public and private healthcare providers recently to work out

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“APHM met with a good number of its member hospitals to strategise and to come up with recommendations on how best this public-private partnership will take place,” he said in a statement.

“These recommendations will be conveyed to the ministry.”

He also called on the government to consider banning exports of locally manufactured face masks and PPE.

“Private hospitals are unable to source the three-ply and N95 face masks, and PPE.

“It is a serious situation which impacts on the safety of patients and staff involved. Local manufacturers continue exporting such items while private hospitals are crying out for supplies.

“It’s time the Health Ministry and the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry worked together to address this,” he said.

Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) said the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry needs to ensure there is enough PPE for healthcare workers.

MMA president Dr N. Ganabaskaran said while the Health Ministry and its personnel had been working around the clock since the spread of Covid-19 in the country, other ministries had yet to play their part in helping to combat the spread.

“There has been an acute shortage of PPE for healthcare workers, especially in the private sector, hence the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry should play an important role to ensure Malaysians do have enough supply.

“Many other countries have ordered their local manufacturers to support the local market first, while we were informed a decision was made but not implemented,” said Dr Ganabaskaran in a statement.

**TAGS / KEYWORDS:**

**Covid-19 , Coronavirus ,**

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