

Civil Servants Must Lead By Example In Upholding Integrity And Public Health — Malaysian Medical Association

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Civil servants must be role models in promoting healthy behaviours, not only through policy but through personal example.



The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) takes note of the recent incident involving a civil servant photographed smoking in an official Selangor state government vehicle, which has since gone viral on social media.

Even with the car window open, it sets the wrong example and disregards both the rules and public health.

Civil servants and leaders must set the standard. Their behaviour reflects the institutions they

serve. When those tasked with upholding the law disregard it, it undermines public trust and confidence in governance.

Smoking in vehicles, whether windows are open or shut, can still expose others to second-hand smoke. More importantly, it normalises unhealthy behaviour that contradicts the government's own health policies.

Civil servants must be role models in promoting healthy behaviours, not only through policy but through personal example.

We commend the swift action taken by the Selangor authorities in issuing a show-cause letter. But enforcement of the Public Officers

(Conduct and Discipline) Regulations 1993 must be consistent and firm across all levels of government.

Public office is a position of trust. Integrity, accountability, and responsibility are non-negotiable. Every action matters. Leadership is not just about authority, it is about setting the right example for the *rakyat* to follow.

This statement was issued by MMA president Dr R. Arasu.

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