

A Word from the President

A long and tiring month is how you can describe the month of July. MMA's Code Black campaign, in solidarity with contract doctors, went into full swing. From 1-12 July 2021, healthcare workers and members of the public in support of the campaign changed their social media profile picture to the theme's black or monochrome and they dressed in black on Black Monday (12 July). Interviews with the media were held almost daily, even on weekends.

I do believe the campaign was a success in that virtual meetings on the issue of contract doctors were called by first the Finance Minister and then, the Prime Minister. I am indeed pleased with the decision to write officially to the Prime Minister after there was no announcement on an expected cabinet decision on the status of contract doctors on 14 July.

The letter must have had some impact because the Prime Minister immediately called for a meeting, which was held the very next morning. I am still a firm believer in official communication. There may be short messaging applications these days but if world leaders still write letters, shouldn't we?

We had made it clear and the Prime Minister is aware that a comprehensive and sustainable solution is needed and this is something we will be working closely with the Health Ministry on. In the meeting, the Prime Minister had also stated that MMA should be involved in any healthcare related policy planning. This is indeed welcomed news and we look forward to future engagements with the Health Ministry. It has always been MMA's policy to work with the government of the day. However, I am sure that the government is also well aware that we will speak out on issues where needed.

Aside from this, MMA was also busy in July with our own food basket initiative – the MMA VoC food basket programme for B40 families. Under the programme, 100 families in Puchong, 118 families in Kajang, 200 families in Dengkil, 100 families in Batu Caves and 100 families in Bukit Rotan and Kuala Selangor were given food aid. I wish to thank Dato' Dr Rampal, his two sons and their friends for coordinating and carrying out the deliveries. It was indeed a job well done!

Lastly, I wish to express my deep concern over the health and well-being of healthcare workers serving in the COVID-19 wards. I find it unacceptable to be working under such conditions. At one time there were just rumours.



Prof Dato Dr M Subramaniam
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“The Prime Minister announced in the meeting that contract extensions will be offered for two years upon completion of mandatory service to enable career progression as specialists.”

Now, there is evidence that our healthcare system is overrun. Some colleagues have even said that it was overrun a long time ago.

There is a severe lack of both manpower and facilities. Some patients have to wait days for a bed and hospitals are short on oxygen and ventilators.

The number of COVID-19 cases has gone up exponentially and consistently even when the nation is under lockdown. Community mass screening is only being carried out now, months after MMA and other associations called for it. It all doesn't make sense.

Our only hope now is vaccination. However, while the daily vaccination rate may have notably improved, there are still quite a number of Malaysians who have yet to even register. Let's also not forget the 2-3 million undocumented workers. There are still many hurdles ahead but let us hope that the walk-in vaccinations planned to begin this month will be a success.

To all members, Happy Merdeka and stay safe! BMMA

PUTRA MEDICAL CENTRE is 170 bedded hospital strategically located in the centre of Alor Setar. We would like to invite applications for the following positions:

SPECIALISTS

- Nephrologist
- Ophthalmologist
- Urologist
- Neurosurgeon
- Orthodontist
- Rheumatologist
- Interventional Radiologist
- Obstetrician & Gynaecologist (Malay Female Doctor)
- Pathologist / Visiting Pathologist
- Vascular Surgeon
- Colorectal Surgeon & Respiratory Physician
- Any Sub Speciality
- Geriatrician
- General Surgeon
- Neurologist
- Gastroenterologist
- Endocrinologist
- Maternal Fetal Medicine
- Breast & Endocrine Surgeon

HOSPITAL POSITIONS

- Dentist
- Medical Officers (Clinic based at Kulim)
- Medical Officers (Preferably Malay Female Doctor)
- Nursing Manager
- Nursing Supervisor
- Staff Nurse
- Staff Nurse
- Physiotherapist
- Radiographer
- Sonographer (Based at Clinic at Kulim)

With Post Basic Qualification

Based at Alor Setar & Clinic at Kulim

Please send CV, certificates, testimonials and photo (n.r.) to:

Human Resources Department
 888, Jalan Sekerat, Off Jalan Putra,
 05100 Alor Setar, Kedah
 Email: hr@putramedicentre.com.my

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