



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Updates and Progress on Issues Faced by Doctors

As 2024 comes to an end and everyone is in a festive mood, the MMA has been hard at work, pushing its agenda and highlighting doctors' and healthcare issues.

For the MMA, there are some long-standing issues as well as new ones affecting our doctors. Over the past month, the MMA has had the opportunity to raise these concerns with the Ministry of Health.

On the morning of 20 November, the MMA, led by myself and other Exco members, paid a courtesy call on our Deputy Health Minister, Dato' Lukanisman Awang Sauni, at his office. Later in the afternoon we also met up with the Ketua Setiausaha (KSU) of the Ministry of Health, Dato' Sri Suriani Binti Dato Ahmad.

The core points raised in both meetings pertained to issues affecting Government doctors (SCHOMOS) and General Practitioners (GPs).

SCHOMOS had three main issues:

1. Selection of medical officers for permanent job placements and the selection criteria involved.
2. New on call rates
3. Reduction and disparity in the regional allowances rate (Bayaran Imbuan Wilayah) being given for doctors transferred to Sabah and Sarawak, after 1 December 2024.



Meeting Deputy Health Minister at his office



Meeting with KSU



MMA Kedah branch annual dinner

GPs had four issues raised:

1. Urgent need for discussion for an increase in GP consultation rates which have remained unchanged for the last 32 years as per the 7th fee schedule.
2. The need for regulation of TPA's in Malaysia
3. Regulation of unlicensed operators and facilities providing health related services to the general public
4. Mandatory display of prices of medication.

The meetings were engaging and MMA put forward its suggestions for all the issues being raised.

On 5 December, MMA paid a courtesy call on the Health Minister, Datuk Seri Haji Dzulkefly Ahmad in Putrajaya. This meeting was attended by the top management of MOH, including the KSU, deputy KSU, Director General, director of Bahagian Amalan, and many others.

The MMA leadership who attended the meeting reiterated the issues affecting our GPs. We were pleased with the commitment shown by the Health Minister to settle the long standing GP issues, especially on the long stagnant consultation rates. It was a very fruitful meeting and we look forward to the positive results of this meeting in the near future.

We are thankful to the Minister of Health and all the top brass of the Ministry for engaging with MMA. We have always shown great commitment to work



MMA Sarawak branch annual dinner

together with the Ministry for a better future for our doctors and healthcare in the country.

Over the last month, as the President of MMA, I had the privilege to be invited to attend the functions organised by three of our branches. On 7 December, I was honoured to be invited for the MMA Sarawak branch's Annual Dinner and Installation night, which was held in Miri. It was a fun filled evening with great entertainment. I would like to extend congratulations to the MMA Sarawak Branch committee led by Dr Ong Eng Joe and the organising committee for this wonderful function.



MMA Sabah dinner

On 13 December, I attended the MMA Kedah Annual Dinner and Installation in Alor Star. Everyone present had a wonderful time and I congratulate Dr Thiyagar Nadarajaw on his installation as the new Branch Chairman for MMA Kedah. I also congratulate him and his organising committee for a job well done.

On 14 December, it was MMA Sabah's turn for their Annual Dinner and Installation in Kota Kinabalu. The grand event was very well organised and was a great success. It was graced by the Deputy Chief Minister of Sabah and also witnessed the installation of Lt Col (Dr) Eugene Tan as the Branch Chairman.

As 2024 draws to an end and we move on to 2025, on behalf of the MMA Exco, I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope that it brings us a better future and happiness.