



President's Message

Dr Muruga Raj Rajathurai
President
president@mma.org.my

Greetings from the Desk of the President.

Three and a half months have passed since I and my EXCO took over the office of MMA. Everyone says that the first 100 days of office will show the performance of the office bearers.

I can assure you that we are doing our best and have achieved the KPI that we had set for ourselves. There were even times when we had to attend three or four meetings a day; it was tiring but we were happy to do it for the members.

We received a call from Datuk Marimuthu, Datuk Paul, and Dato' Indrani Thuraisingham from FOMCA and are working on the new Patients Charter together. We will be signing it soon.

We also had a meeting with FOMEMA in our office and we managed to reduce the number of mental health questionnaires to just three questions and also determined that their mandatory yearly visit to all panel clinics must include a prior notification.



Meeting with FOMCA representatives

We discussed the fees as well but as we already know that it is not in their hands but in the hands of the government.

We also met Tenaganita delegation at our office to see how we could assist them with their one-stop centre for abused migrant workers. We gave them some ideas and look forward to working with them.



Meeting with Tenaganita representatives

Dr Koh Kar Chai and I attended the "Universal Health Coverage" meeting. In the panel, there were three past Health ministers, Tan Sri Subramaniam, YB Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, and Tuan Khairy Jamaluddin. We also had the new Deputy Health Minister Lukanisman Awang Sauni.

To answer the question "Did we achieve universal health coverage for all?", after discussions in the forum, the answer is "We are working towards it, but still far from actually achieving it until, and unless, we improve the health services in the interiors of Sabah and Sarawak."



At the NCD meeting with the past health ministers



At the recent MASEAN Meeting in Jakarta

Healthcare Reforms are put in place and the White Paper hopefully will be carried on by the new Government. A bigger healthcare budget is needed to ensure that facilities and equipments are upgraded, and the manpower distribution is sorted out.

In between all this, I managed to attend the MASEAN meeting in Jakarta from 3-4 December. It was a good exchange of experiences and challenges faced during COVID-19 pandemic and the recovery phase. We had delegates from Indonesia, Singapore, Philippines, Vietnam, and Thailand joining us in the meeting. The Indonesians are great hosts, and they really took care of us.

I had to leave earlier than the rest of the team because I promised to attend the 50th anniversary of MMA Sarawak on the evening of 4 December.

Gracing the occasion were the Sarawak Premier, The Right Honourable Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Johari Tun Abang Haji Openg, and both the Deputy premiers, YB Dato Sri Professor Dr Sim Kui Hian and YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas. In my speech, I mentioned that it is time MMA gets a Senator post to make it easier for



With the Sarawak premier at the MMA Sarawak 50th Anniversary event



Newspaper article from Free Malaysia Today website



Giving a speech at the MMA Sarawak's 50th Anniversary

MMA to liaise with the government on healthcare problems. The Premier supported the call for a Senator.

In my opinion, we should have asked for a Senator many years ago. Well, we have started the ball rolling and if not now, but surely one day MMA will get a Senator to deal with the healthcare issues of the country. The organising Chairman, Dr Khaira and the team had a very grand celebration. All the past Sarawak MMA Chairmans were called up to the stage and a well-deserving appreciation was given.

I also had the pleasure of attending MMA Kedah's Doctor's Day celebrations in Alor Setar. Dr Edwin and his team are great organisers. Also taking part were the Kedah State Director, Hospital Directors, Specialists Medical Officers, Housemen, and medical students. Appreciation certificates were given to deserving doctors and also the hospitals that played an exemplary role during the COVID-19 outbreak. Congratulations, MMA Kedah!



At MMA Kedah's Doctor's Day Celebration

In Sabah, Dr Brandon and his team held an installation dinner on 16 December where Dr Brandon was installed as the new Chairman. I took the opportunity to thank Prof Kew for his work during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Dr Brandon's installation as the new chairman of MMA Sabah

We had a night of dancing and karaoke. The Sabahans know how to enjoy themselves, and it was a lovely night with all of them. **BMMA**



Sabah's Installation Dinner

Happy New Year and let's welcome 2023 with the hope of an abundance of happiness and peace for all!