



President's Message

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Greetings from the President's desk.

Wishing everyone again a "Happy New Year". After three years of us enduring lots of difficult moments, we will leave all that unpleasantness behind and move on stronger and happier. COVID-19 taught us many lessons, we learned how to value friendship, family, time, our earnings, and many other things. I believe those lessons will teach us to respect and love everyone regardless of race or religion. This year, let's pray for love, happiness, and peace for all.

As I pen my words, I am a little anxious because of how fast time is passing by. I have finished four months as President of MMA; a third of my tenure is over. We still have so many things to do yet have so little time left. My Exco and I are striving as much as we can to keep up with our plans for the year.

I have been giving a lot of pressure on the housemen's unaccounted work times and even used big words like "exploitation of housemen" in the media to attract attention. I also wrote about Junior doctors working extra hours and how they are overstretched



Newspaper headline in the Malay Mail



Voicing my concerns on junior doctors' issues in CodeBlue



Meeting with CKAPs

and underpaid. I also highlighted the various reasons for brain drain, bullying in hospitals, no proper career pathway, no transparency, and no proper selection criteria for contract doctors becoming permanently employed, unaccounted working hours, being underpaid, etc. It was published in most of the mainstream media. We will carry on putting pressure till the government pays attention.

We had a meeting with *Cawangan Kawalan Amalan Perubatan Swasta* (CKAPS), chaired by Dr Mohammed Iqbal. Many issues were discussed, including clinic setups, KKM's scheduled visits to clinics, GPs only being allowed to do obstetrics ultrasound scans, the use of IV drips only for

emergency patients and the need for a referral. I will say it was a good meeting, our PPS Chairman Dr Balachandran will write and explain to all our GPs soon.

On 27 January, I am excited about meeting our medical students from Penang for a brief chat regarding MMA and how we will prepare them throughout their career. I hope all states can organise a 'Meet MMA' event with their students and Housemen. They need to know that we are there for them.

I was invited to speak to Malaysian students at the UKEC conference at the University of Manchester on 25 February. I will have to debate with Tuan Khairy Jamalludin on the legalisation of

Cannabis in Malaysia. It will be an honour to share the stage with him.

Looking forward to a second meeting with our health minister to further discuss health care reforms. I shall update here in the next month's issue of *Berita MMA*. **BMMA**



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