



President's Message

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Greetings to all, February has been a busy month for all at MMA. With a lot of issues to handle, all of us are trying our best to cope.

SCHOMOS has many issues that MMA has been addressing over the years to different Health Ministers and governments but still the “low lying fruits” are not being plucked. The last Health Minister YBMK Tuan Khairy Jamalluddin had sorted out some issues, but we have not seen any more fruits being plucked.

As YB Dr Zaleha has the heart to reform, we shall be fair by giving her some time to understand the issues and find ways to sort them out. The Health Ministry together with MMA organised the Townhall meeting 22 February to address the issues raised by SCHOMOS.

We presented the issues and gave possible solutions. Before we met, we had discussed with other associations to get input from them about the selection criteria for a contract doctor to be promoted to a permanent poster. YBMK has taken notes of everything, and she has promised to look into all those problems. Hopefully, she will pluck some of those low-lying fruits

We met with FOMEMA and discussed various issues including the shortage of Radiologists, post COVID-19 scarring of the lungs and abnormal lung findings (to differentiate between COVID-19 scarring and TB scarring).



Dialogue session with students from Monash Medical University and Newcastle Medical University.

We even had a serious discussion on increasing the fees due to the doctors. We had sent out a survey to all our general practitioners (GPs) and taken note of the various inputs. We hope to give our general practitioners some good news soon regarding the FOMEMA fees.

For the first time, the Ministry of Finance invited all the stakeholders to discuss the Healthcare budget. The Deputy Minister, YB Ahmad Maslan



'Meet the President' session



Meeting with the ex-Health Minister:
Tuan Khairy Jamaluddin

chaired the meeting. We presented our stand of having at least 5% of the GDP and insisted that they must look at healthcare spending as an investment and not an expenditure. We had asked them to look at spending in the human resource capital to make sure we have enough doctors now and in the future for optimum healthcare delivery.

Meanwhile, on 10 February, I had the opportunity to meet students from Monash Medical University and Newcastle Medical University. We had presented to them about

bullying and harassment. I advised them to differentiate between bullying and teaching. We had a good dialogue session with them and look forward to more of such sessions.



MMA Penang Branch Meeting



Townhall meeting with doctors and MOH

MMA Penang had organised a Northern Dermatology Conference. It was the first aesthetic workshop for simple procedures by GPs. I was glad to be there to meet members who came from Peninsular Malaysia and as far as Sabah and Sarawak. Later that day, I met with students from RCSI and UCD. The students were happy to see and interact with us and we look forward to more dialogues with students.

In the evening, we met with Mr Dirk, the regional director for MSF, accompanied by Mr Prabhu and Dato' Paramjit Singh to discuss the vaccination programmes for refugees. It was an interesting exchange of knowledge and we look forward to working with them in the future.

On 18 March, MMA Wilayah organised a 'Meet the President' session and again it was very nice to meet my old friends and make new ones. Later that night, we had dinner with the media and showed our appreciation to them for highlighting our news to the people.

On 20 March, HGS and I were invited to a meeting with Deputy KSU of MITI, Datuk Norazman to

discuss about ways to reduce the congestion in emergency departments in public hospitals. Many ideas were put forward by all those who attended and I am positive that he will bring about changes soon to sort out the congestion.

On 25 March, I was at the University of Manchester, UK for a healthy debate with our

ex-Health Minister, Tuan Khairy, better known as KJ. We debated on the "Legalisation of Medical Cannabis", an interesting and controversial topic. We met up with many Malaysian students from various universities in the UK.

May the upcoming month be as fruitful as this month. **BMM**