



President's Message

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Happy Ramadhan wishes to all our Muslim friends. We have reached our 6-month period in office, and as I believe we are doing well so far!

We have never been media-shy to address issues pertaining to our doctors and to the public. Many issues had come up over the month, e.g. the government stopping scholarships for certain courses including medicine, the government doing a rationalisation study on critical allowance for our doctors, and so on. We have given our opinion on all these issues.

I hope our members are following up on our media statements and keeping updated with what MMA is doing. If you have missed any of the media statements, you can always google MMA and the press statements will be available on the website.

We have stood up time and again for our housemen and junior doctors. We have repeatedly put our foot down on trying to establish a “Zero Bullying” concept in our public healthcare system. I am still going to find ways to put pressure on the government to take this issue seriously and make proactive decisions instead of waiting for an incident to happen before trying to investigate.

I have even suggested that Department Heads be made responsible for ensuring that their respective departments have zero bullying. It is very sad to hear that in most cases, the medical officers are the ones that are actually bullying them. Why? Is it because they were bullied and thus, they must bully another? Has it become a culture? Will it stop? Who is to be blamed? I blame the government for the lack of enforcement. They have to put their foot down to stop the bullying instead of sweeping it under the carpet.

In the Townhall meeting last month, I had suggested that KKM and JPA should play their role in enforcing the working hours of doctors in public service. The housemen are working on a shift, yet they are asked to come early and go home late. Since they are not paid for the extra hours, this is a form of exploitation, there is no other word for this type of wage theft.

I had compiled a pass-over form that I named "DRAIP" which I compiled the Irish pass-over system called 'ISBAR' and the UK system called 'SBAR'. This is a form that the doctors can use to pass over their patients to the next shift without compromising on healthcare delivery. This will allow them to go home on time and they will come in happier the next day. I believe that this will make our doctors in the public service happier.

Dr Bala (PPS chairman) and I had a meeting with Mr Clifford and Miss Bhavana from the British High Commission to speak about possible tie-ups with the Royal College of General Practitioners, UK. The idea was to see if we could do some GP certification courses or postgraduate diploma courses to enhance our GP practice. The Exco later had our first meeting with the RCGP on 13 March. I will update you on this in the coming months.

To celebrate Commonwealth Day on 13 March 2023, I was invited to Buckingham Palace for a reception by King Charles and the Queen Consort. As the President of the Commonwealth Medical Association, it was indeed an honour for me to represent Malaysian doctors and doctors from all the Commonwealth countries. This is also a very special Commonwealth Day because it was the first for King Charles as a King and it was also the first time it was held in Buckingham Palace.



Meeting with King Charles in Buckingham Palace, London



With Prince William in Buckingham Palace, London

King Charles thanked all the doctors around the world for their work during the pandemic. The King said "Amazing the work you medics did. Thank you". These words will surely motivate all of our doctors and we can be proud of the work done by us and our colleagues during the pandemic. Prince William also thanked us, the doctors, for the work we do.

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