



# President's Message

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“We registered our disappointment at the removal of nicotine from the Poison Act.”

Happy Labour Day everyone!

The month of May has arrived, and there are four more months before handing over to the next team. We have scheduled many meetings and events for the next four months.

We had our PPS Exco meeting on 2 April, where we discussed issues pertaining to our fee schedule and FOMEMA. We are keeping our fingers crossed to see the FOMEMA fees increase this time. We also have a townhall meeting scheduled for later in the month to discuss GP issues.

I was invited to meet H.E. Mr B.N. Reddy, the High Commissioner of India in Malaysia. He was looking at a better partnership between MMA and the Indian Medical Association to promote the healthcare industry and health tourism. We had a lengthy discussion and promised to look at the possibilities of venturing into partnerships.

On 4 April, I was interviewed by Al Jazeera to discuss about the strike that our doctors were supposed to take part in. We had given press statements earlier that we do not condone the strikes as they will cause inconvenience to the public at government health centres.

This does not mean we don't understand the issues that our doctors are facing, in fact, our hearts are with them and MMA has always been fighting for the public service doctors. We are still at the negotiating table, and we want the government to take this strike attempt seriously and work towards improving the health workers' welfare.

I was called to see the Director of Jabatan Komunikasi under the Prime Minister's department. We again discussed the issues faced by the healthcare system; I was informed that the issues will be highlighted to the parties concern.

Later the same day, we had our annual Buka Puasa event with YBMK Dr Zaliha. It was a good and interactive session, and we went on to discuss the removal of nicotine from the Poison Act, something that we didn't agree to.

We put our foot down and registered our disappointment with the removal of the nicotine from the Poison Act without the passing of the new Act to control tobacco products and the vape industry. YBMK promised that she will try her best to get it passed in the next Parliament sitting in May 2023. We agreed to help reduce damage control for the public, especially our young school-going children. We will educate the public, parents, and teachers on how to keep the young away from vaping.

I was also invited to a round table meeting by the Association of Professors Malaysia to discuss the 'Rang Undang Undang Kawalan produk merokok demi kesihatan awam 2023'. In the meeting, all attending associations were on the same page in disagreeing with the removal of nicotine from the Poison Act.

I had attended the World Medical Association meeting in Nairobi, Kenya together with our President Elect, Dr Azizan, JDN representative Dr Melinda and Past President Dr Ashok. It was the council session and many global healthcare issues were discussed.

I was happy to attend the student session at Manipal University College Malaysia, preparing them for housemanship and the real life of a doctor. Prof Dr Jaya and his team organised a wonderful session.

We have scheduled a career guidance fair with speakers from various professions to address the challenges and the successes in each profession. This is in the hope that our students choose the course that suits them and to prevent dropouts during their studies or even during their working life.

Look forward to updating all of you next month. God bless. **BMM**



Annual Buka Puasa with YBMK Dr Zaliha



World Medical Association meeting in Nairobi, Kenya



Student Session at Manipal University College Malaysia