



Dato' Dr Kalwinder Singh Khaira
MMA President 2024/25
president@mma.org.my

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My dear friend and colleagues, as we inch towards the end of the year, one of the most important items awaited in October is the national budget presentation. This year, the budget will be presented on 18 October by our finance minister, who is also our Prime Minister.

MMA has submitted a comprehensive list of healthcare issues to the government. One key request is that government expenditures on public healthcare be increased. The goal of a budget expenditure of at least 5% of GDP is there but to date, there is no timeline. MMA has called that a targetted timeline be set sooner rather than later. Funds are always needed for the development of infrastructure and services, and also to cover increasing operational expenditures.

The healthcare workforce faces many challenges and it is important that action be taken to ensure job security and proper career pathway. This also applies to senior doctors who not only provide specialist care but also mentor, teach and guide the younger doctors. We need to have mechanisms in place to ensure that they remain in public service. Enhancement of the public-private partnership between the public sector and GPs is also important in utilising the services available, especially in the care and prevention of NCDs.

The news of the suicide by a doctor in Sabah was heartbreaking, and MMA extends its deepest condolences to the family. MMA had called for an immediate and transparent investigation and the Health Minister has appointed a task force to address this matter.

Mental health is very important and attention has to be given to it. MMA has always called for the well being of all healthcare workers and the importance of their mental health. MMA also stands against any form of bullying amongst all strata of healthcare workers. The pathways that exist for those affected to raise concerns, seek assistance, and seek redress must be improved to ensure that all would have confidence in the options available to them. I would like to remind all readers that MMA has its own avenue i.e. the Helpdoc service to help those who need assistance. Please do reach out and we will assist.



Penang Branch Installation Dinner

One of the responsibilities and privileges of the President is to visit and attend the functions organised by all our 14 branches. It is indeed an honour to meet and interact with all members from throughout the country. On 5 October, I had the honour of being invited for the Penang branch MMA Installation Dinner. It was refreshing to see the members and their guests coming together at the dinner. The event was very well organised and I would like to congratulate the incoming Exco led by Dr Divagar Varatha Raju. I am sure they will bring the state branch to greater heights.

Doctors Day is celebrated in Malaysia on 10 October. In conjunction with this, MMA organised a celebration on 12 October at MMA house in Kuala Lumpur. Themed "Caring for Patients, Caring for Doctors", it resonates with the present times. Doctors have always cared for their patients with dedication and it is time that the profession also takes doctors and other healthcare workers into consideration. Kudos to the Organising Committee (under PPS and SCHOMOS) for organising the function.

To keep our members abreast of the latest news, I will keep updating on the issues and activities which MMA engages in on a monthly basis via this column. Till next month, take care!



Celebrating Doctors Day 2024