



# President's Message

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President  
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I would like to congratulate the councillors who were voted in during the election of the Malaysian Medical Council (MMC) for council members to represent Peninsular Malaysia. They are all experts in their own field and deserve the votes which they obtained.

However, there were comments on the inequality of representation on the Council when the results were announced. Do note that the number of registered medical practitioners who cast their votes are very low when compared against all registered medical practitioners in this country. Thus, if you feel strongly about the representation you want on the Council, then cast your vote. By not doing so, you deny your preferred candidate from being elected.

MMC is the regulatory body behind many of the policies that regulate the medical profession. Without a diversity of thoughts and expertise relating to the practice of medicine in this country, unsuitable policies for the medical fraternity may be formulated.

Be reminded that the regulatory body sits on disciplinary cases affecting members of the medical fraternity and we need a diversity of experts who can form opinions based on their field of expertise. It would be pointless to later complain that MMC doesn't understand the medical fraternity and that it is coming out with lopsided decisions on regulatory matters.

As registered medical practitioners, you must decide on the representatives of your choice on the council. All it actually needs is for you to pick up a pen and vote. Just keep in mind when it is time to vote again.

## The Generational End Game Bill

It was brought to parliament in August in a brave move by the Health Minister. MMA has been an advocate against tobacco use for ages, spearheaded by Professor Datuk Dr Lekhraj Rampal. We faced a setback when the world veered towards electronic cigarettes and vaping products as a means to manage addiction to tobacco. This has brought about new diseases caused by injury to the lungs. A new diagnosis called E cigarette or Vaping product use Associated Lung Injury (EVALI) is now a recognised diagnosis with its own Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG) in Malaysia.

MMA fully supports this call to the public to get their members of parliament to support the bill. This bill is opposed by those who stand to lose economically if it is passed, though on close examination of the bill, current users of tobacco, e cigarettes and vaping products are not affected which means that this lucrative industry will continue for many years to come, at least until those born after 2007 replaces the users of such products which will be quite some years into the future.

The bill did not get the required support as hoped and is slated to be tabled again in parliament in October after a Parliamentary Special Select Committee (PSSC) studies in detail the grouses brought up during the initial tabling. We hope the bill will be passed as it means future generations being freed from the scourge of diseases caused by the use of such products.

The medical fraternity has a duty to the nation to ensure that future generations remain healthy and free from such preventable diseases. Although harm reduction measures can be employed by medical practitioners to those currently addicted to such products, even if only half of the smokers seek help from medical professionals, it will be a mammoth task to manage these cases.

Ever since the opening up of economic activities, MMA has been involved in many meetings and activities. Some of the highlights include:

- On 6 August 2022, a forum was held with the Malaysian Pharmacists Association (MPS) and MMA. Themed 'Working Together for Optimal Health for All' (special emphasis on Non Communicable Diseases), it brought attention to how the Malaysian Dental Association (MDA) was left out of the equation despite how many non communicable diseases start with oral health. All three associations agreed to recognise each profession's contribution to the management of non communicable



MMA SCHOMOS meeting with Health Minister



Meeting with MDA

diseases and that we should look forward to more dialogue between our associations.

- FOMEMA recently held a physical seminar, entitled, 'Our Shared Commitment To Our Nation: FOMEMA Service Providers' Seminar 2022'. The objective is to impart knowledge to its panel of doctors and X-ray centres to ensure that medical examination, chest X-rays and laboratory tests done are of high quality with the view to reduce spread of communicable diseases among the foreign workers in this country. The seminar was well attended.
- MMA raised RM200,000 in the Cycle for Cancer 2022, a ride involving 10 cyclists over 10 days (15-24 July 2022) covering a distance of 1,110km. The amount raised is for the National Cancer Council (MAKNA) to be used for their patients. The ride started from Sandakan and ended in Sibu. Some were sceptical when the idea was first mooted in MMA as it sounded crazy, cycling more than a thousand kilometres in Sarawak exposed to the weather. But the organising committee under SCHOMOS soldiered on and carried it out successfully. Kudos to each and every member of the organising committee for the determination shown and its ultimate success. A shout out is in order to Dr Timothy Cheng who not only help organised but participated in the ride as well.
- MMA had a high level meeting with the Health Minister, Chief Secretary of the Health Ministry, Director General of Health and other senior officers of the Ministry of Health on 11 August 2022, to discuss on the multitude of issues plaguing our doctors in the public sector. There was a healthy discussion led by Dr Vijay Ganasan,

SCHOMOS Chairman and we managed to get clarity on most of the issues brought up. SCHOMOS will be reporting on this in detail.

- The MMA Golf Trophy Challenge which was held in Nilai Springs Golf and Country Club on 6 August 2022. Organised by the MMA Wilayah branch, it was a huge success and



Cycle for Cancer 2022 – cruising along a beautiful stretch of road



With Mohd Shahril Fitri Bin Hashim, CEO, FOMEMA



Participants of the MMA Golf Trophy Challenge

we extend our congratulations to the organising committee. A write up on this is due from Dr Ravi SP Venkatachalam, Vice Chairman of the Wilayah branch.

MMA is concerned about the future of healthcare of our nation. It has been committed to the cause for a reform of the healthcare system for many years now. Its past office bearers had deliberated on this in depth and even published books on the need for a reform in our healthcare system.

We published our first book in 1990 with the title, 'The Future of the Health

Service in Malaysia' and it was followed up with the second edition in 1999 entitled, 'Health for All-Reforming Health Care in Malaysia.' We are due to release our third edition which will touch on current issues related to our ever evolving healthcare system.

There is the hope that MMA's recommendations for the future of healthcare in this country will be in tandem with the Health White Paper that is being drawn up by the Health Minister and which will be tabled in Parliament before the end of this year. **BMMMA**