

As a born and bred Malaysian, I am deeply concerned about the unity of our people

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A word from the President



MMA Health Carnival 2020

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the MMA Health Carnival 2020 that was held in 14 states of Malaysia on 18 January 2020 as part of our CSR programme was a huge success. It was well received by the public and our government. During the opening ceremony, our Health Minister even encouraged MMA to make the Health Carnival an annual event.



Dr K K Aggarwal, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad and Dr Ganabaskaran

I wish to also thank the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development and the Ministry of Communications and Multimedia, sponsors and organisations for their support in making the Health Carnival a major success. It was also an honour indeed to have Dr KK Aggarwal – President of the Confederation of Medical Associations of Asia and Oceania (CMAAO), as a special guest at our opening ceremony.

Most of all, I wish to thank our MMA staff for their dedication and for working tirelessly for months to put together a truly impressive programme. The opening ceremony was professionally organised by our staff without the need of hiring an event management company.

A big thank you to our state branches as well for putting together the exciting programmes in their own respective health carnivals. I am deeply encouraged by the high enthusiasm shown by our MMA members. This carnival demonstrated the strength of MMA and the close cooperation we enjoyed with state branches and also the teamwork spirit shown. I have only a few months left in my term as President but I do hope that the Health Carnival will continue

under the next leadership and for the years to come as a signature event by MMA.

While the Health Carnival was aimed at raising the awareness on the importance of health, it was most of all a platform for Malaysians from all walks of life to come together for a fun-filled day. This must be encouraged as we need more of such gatherings that promote unity.

As a born and bred Malaysian, I am deeply concerned about the unity of our people. The harmony between the races was a lot different in the good old days in my childhood and teen years. Race and religion was never an issue. We played and ate together, visited each other on festive occasions and helped each other out in difficult times.

It is my hope that for the sake of our nation's peace, progress and prosperity, national unity should be instilled among our people especially the younger generation who will be our future leaders. Our government needs to take the lead in this but we cannot completely rely on our government. We must be the change we want to see.

I see MMA having a role to play through programmes such as the Health Carnival that can be organised for the public to promote and encourage national unity.



Health Minister with the Organising Committee



MMA President with the Silat, Silambam and Wushu martial arts groups



Free health screening

Other Updates

MMA released press statements to the media this month on preventive measures to take to protect against influenza. In our statements we advised the public to practice good hygiene and recommended vaccination especially for the children and the elderly who may be at risk of complications from influenza. We also issued a statement on calling for GPs to be prioritised in the supply of vaccines.

We had also issued a press statement urging the Public Service Department (PSD), Ministry of Health (MOH) and Ministry of Finance (MOF) to once and for all, work together to sort out the issues faced by our Medical Officers (MOs). This after it was reported in the media that several Medical Officers (MO) in Sibul, Sarawak had their contracts abruptly terminated.

These doctors had completed their studies and housemanship training overseas and as such returned to Malaysia to serve under a two year UD41 medical officer contract. During the two years of service, they were not offered a permanent position despite being exemplary medical officers, and having started training for a specialist course. The hospital that they are serving in is also in need of medical officers to maintain their service to the people of Sibul, Sarawak. MMA is pleased to hear that steps are being taken to address this issue and that the Minister of Health will be immediately investigating this matter.

Lastly, I wish all those of the Hindu faith, a Happy Thaipusam and to all February babies, a Happy Birthday! **BMMMA**