



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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My dear friends and colleagues,

As we move forward after the hectic activities of last month, it is my finding that wheels of change move very slowly.

As of the time of writing, we are still awaiting the decision of the government on the General Practitioners' (GPs) consultation fee revision. We have met officials of the Ministry of Health (MOH) and informed on what will be a quantum that is fair and appropriate, taking into consideration the stagnant fees for 33 years and the increased cost of running a practise. We have heard that the National Action Committee on the Cost of Living (NACCOL) has also deliberated on the issue. The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) has written in and asked that it too be given an opportunity to present to NACCOL, and we await an answer. It is also disheartening to see criticism against the GPs and the expectation by some of GPs to benevolently provide healthcare as a social service to the public. GPs' sustainability is at stake, and this will have a direct impact on the primary healthcare system of the country. That is why MMA has been very persistent in pushing for this revision.



MMA Perak's anniversary dinner



MMA Melaka's GP forum

On the issue of price transparency and the opposition to the use of Act 723, which is a non-medical act, on the clinics, we were happy to note that after the submission of the joint memorandum by MMA and other associations to the PM's office last month, MOH has said that they will look into using Act 586 for this purpose but till date there has been no feedback. MMA has also since explicitly called for the degazettement of the gazette order which emplaces the healthcare sector under the ambit of the Price Control and Anti-Profitteering Act 2011 (Act 723) for the medicine price transparency. As it stands, we still await the transition on price transparency control to be under Act 586 whilst the three-month "educational enforcement" period runs. We all hope that the change to Act 586 and the degazettement from Act 723 will be done as soon as possible.

Going on with the tradition of visiting every state, I had the honour of attending the MMA Perak's Anniversary Dinner in Ipoh. The theme was Bollywood, and all looked resplendent in their beautiful outfits. I wish to congratulate the state chairman Dr Suresh Subramaniam, the organising chairperson Dr Monesh Pillai, and all the committee for a wonderful evening graced by many doctors from Perak.

MMA Melaka organised a medical forum for GPs on 14 June, and it was indeed a well organised function with representation from the Melaka State Health Department (JKN). Many issues related to GPs were discussed, and the Melaka state representatives from the JKN, Private Medical Practice Control Branch (CKAPS), and Pharmaceutical Services Division were very supportive in engaging with those present. This allowed GPs to be able to bring up their worries, problems, and grouses to the relevant authorities.

The leadership of MMA is also invited to many events every month. Over the last month, I had the opportunity to attend the conferment ceremony of the



AFPM convocation



RUMC conferment ceremony

Academy of Family Physicians of Malaysia (AFPM) in Putrajaya and also be a guest at the conferment ceremony of the RUMC medical college in Penang. The ceremonies were grandly held and were proud moments for all the recipients and their families. In addition, I also had the honour of attending and being part of the stage party at the opening ceremony of the Annual Scientific Congress of the College of Surgeons in Kuching.

The upcoming month sees many activities, and we also await a lot of decisions which will have an effect on our GP members and also government doctors. We hope that all will turn out for the better. Till the next article, stay positive and stay healthy.