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A word from the President

With the recent coronavirus outbreak, I wish to remind our GPs and our MOs who are the frontliners to take extra precautions



With the Secretary General of Commonwealth,
Rt. Hon. The Baroness Patricia Scotland QC

COVID-19

January was a non-stop month of issuing press statements and replying to questions from the media since news of the Novel Coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan, China first emerged. MMA has voiced its support for the swift response by the government in its surveillance and infections control efforts and we are thankful that the number of infected persons has been significantly low.

At the time of writing this, 70,500 have been infected by the virus worldwide and in total 1,770 have died. Chinese authorities have placed about 56 million people in Hubei and its capital Wuhan under quarantine, virtually sealing off the province from the rest of the country in an unprecedented effort to contain the virus.

As a doctor, I am also saddened to hear of 6 healthcare workers who died in China. They were among the 1,760 healthcare professionals who were tested positive. The World Health Organization (WHO) is seeking more information from China on this. It is of great concern when healthcare workers are getting infected and in such large numbers.

I wish to remind our GPs and our MOs who are the frontliners to take extra precautions during this time and that the highest standards of infection control must be strictly observed.

Poor Turnout of Doctors at MMA Health Carnival 2020

The nationwide MMA Health Carnival 2020 can be declared an overall success, thanks to a dedicated team who worked tirelessly putting it all together. A post mortem was held at the MMA office on 30 January 2020 and special recognition was given to all those in the organising committee who played a significant role.

However, it was disappointing that on the day of the event, less than 300 doctors in total were present at the Health Carnivals that took place in the 14 states. But mention GP fee schedule and almost all would be willing to close their clinics for the day to attend a town hall session.

The MMA Health Carnival was aimed at reaching out to the B40 and M40 groups, to educate them on the importance of health and to promote healthy living. For just one day, the rakyat from this income group would get free basic health checks, eye check-ups, be assessed by OTs and Physiotherapists, learn CPR, be treated to free entertainment, enjoy good food and treat their kids to a fun day out. Most of it for FREE.

To date, the Health Carnival was the biggest event MMA had ever organised and probably the most important event the doctors had organised for the public! But it is unbelievable that out of the 15,000 MMA members and the 57,000 registered doctors, less than 300 came to be with their colleagues at the Health Carnival in support of a good cause.

Rise in Child Abuse Cases Worrying

It is of serious concern, the number of child abuse cases that are being reported these days. On 10 February 2020, we read reports of a child abuse case in Seberang Perai. An 11 year old girl was allegedly beaten with a helmet.

Abrasions over her right frontal lobe, swelling on both eyes, bruises on her right elbow, multiple old scars on both arms, swelling on both feet and old scars on the rest of her body were confirmed from the medical reports. Such was the extent of her injuries that she had to be warded at a hospital.

As a national body, I feel that apart from voicing concerns of the medical profession and issues faced by the medical fraternity, we must also speak out against these unspeakable crimes committed against the defenseless. We urge the government to review the punishments for such crimes.



MPOC MoU Signing Ceremony (L-R) Mr Ravi Muthayah, Datuk Dr Kalyana Sundram, YB Datuk Seri Shamsul Iskandar Mohd Akin, YB Teresa Kok, Dato' Lee Yeow Chor & Dr N Ganabaskaran

MPOC First Corporate Sponsorship

MMA recently signed its first corporate sponsorship - a first of its kind sponsorship agreement with the Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC). We are looking at more such collaborations in the coming months so do look out for updates here.

In the coming issues of MMA Berita, I will begin to touch more on some of our national issues. As mentioned before, as a national body, I feel we have a role to play in contributing to our nation's development.

Lastly, I urge all doctors to take extra precautions in taking care of their health during this time, especially the GPs and MOs who are the frontliners. Do also ensure that your nurses and staff are also observing the highest standards of hygiene and infection control at all times.

To all the March babies, I would like to wish you a Happy Birthday!

God bless you all! **BMMMA**



MMA Press Conference on COVID-19 (L-R) Ms Rissa Soetama, Dr Thirunavukarasu Rajoo, Dr N Ganabaskaran, Datuk Dr Christopher Lee and Dr Raj Kumar Maharajah



MOU signing ceremony (L-R): Andy Warrol, Asanee Mallamphut, Pn Rosidah Radzian, Mohd Haris Mohd Arshad, Professor Dr Raja Affendi Raja Ali, Professor Dr Ahmad Nazrun Shuid, Dr N Ganabaskaran, Mohammad Rahimi Abdullah, Professor Sharifa Ezat Wan Puteh, Professor Norfilza Mohd Mokhtar