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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**M**y dear friends and colleagues,

It has been a busy month with a lot of happenings. It is also a month where for the first time in history, our General Practitioners (GPs) assembled in Putrajaya outside the Office of the Prime Minister (PMO) on 6 May to pass a memorandum from MMA and other like-minded associations to the Prime Minister. It was an event which was organised under PPS and drew around 600 doctors, mainly GPs but also those from other sectors. They came from all over the country to assemble to highlight the issues that the GPs and medical clinics are facing in their practise. The officers of the PMO, IPD Putrajaya, and Perbadanan Putrajaya were very helpful in allowing and facilitating the peaceful assembly. MMA thanks the Prime Minister for his acknowledgement and prompt action in response to the memorandum submitted.



*Doctors at a peaceful assembly in Putrajaya to pass the memorandum to PM*

In the memorandum, we highlighted that doctors are not against price transparency but strongly oppose the use of the Act 723, which is a non-medical act, on their profession. We fully support the medicine price display initiative as it is part of patients' rights, and we urge that it be enforced under the existing Private Healthcare Facilities and Services Act 1998 (Act 586), which governs medical practice. This issue where some had implied that clinic patients are customers, similar to customers in all other retail

sectors, had drawn a lot of anger amongst doctors and showed a clear lack of understanding of the professional practice of doctors and clinics.

The memorandum also brought up the issue of the GP consultation fees, under the 7<sup>th</sup> Fee Schedule of Act 586, which have remained stagnant for the last 33 years. We hope that the revised fee structure will fairly reflect the 33-year stagnation in rates of RM10 to RM35. We hope the new increased rates will also acknowledge the vital contributions of private GPs to the health of the population and will be meaningful towards the sustainability of Malaysia's primary healthcare sector, in line with the Ministry of Health's focus on strengthening primary care in the promotion of health and the prevention of diseases. The other issues brought up in the memorandum were the proliferation of unregulated TPA's and their effect on clinics and also on foreign equity in healthcare.

The instruction by the Prime Minister and the cabinet for the tabling of working papers by the Ministry of Health (MOH) on the disputed usage of Price Control and Anti-Profiteering Act 2011 (Act 723) for the medicine price display order for private clinics and the revision of the private GP consultation fees is very much appreciated. Our Health Minister has since announced that MOH will look at putting the price display policy under Act 586 where it rightly belongs and that the 7<sup>th</sup> Fee Schedule will be revised accordingly and these issues will be brought up to the cabinet very quickly.

We commend these important initiatives and hope that engagement will be held by MOH with MMA and stakeholders prior to the tabling. Constructive dialogue is essential to fully understand the requests outlined in the memorandum.

In building solidarity amongst our members, MMA Kedah had organised the third MMA team-building event in Langkawi on 19-20 April. 50 participants from all over the country took time out to attend, and it is inspiring to see representatives from all corners of MMA: PPS, SCHOMOS, SMAAMS, and JDN, joining hands and working together.

Team building is about building bonds, strengthening trust, and nurturing the spirit of togetherness that keeps us strong, both as professionals and as individuals. All present had a wonderful experience, and I must thank MMA Kedah and congratulate the organising committee for a job well done. We look forward to the event next year.

I also had the privilege of officiating the MMA Conference on Integrative Medicine (CIM) 2025 held in KL on 3-4 May. The conference with the theme:

"Integrative Medicine: Embracing Inclusivity with Diversity" was indeed an eye-opener to the different modalities available in the promotion of healthcare and also in integrated treatment choices.

Also on 3-4 May, MMA together with MDHMS had organised the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Leadership Course in Kota Kinabalu. This event had drawn in around 80 participants comprising both MMA delegates and also senior management personnel from KKM. This close cooperation between MMA and KKM is inspiring, and all gained valuable insights on leadership. The event was very well organised by SCHOMOS Sabah, who went out of their way and provided great hospitality to all participants. We hope that this collaboration between MMA and MDHMS will continue and that the event will be conducted yearly.

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



*Participants of 2nd National Leadership Course in Kota Kinabalu*



*Officiation of MMA CIM 2025*