



Dato' Dr Kalwinder Singh Khaira
MMA President 2024/25
president@mma.org.my

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My dear friends and colleagues,

It has been the month when everyone took the time to enjoy the Hari Raya festivities and now are back to work.

The number of activities were a little reduced during the month of Ramadan but I'm sure all activities will be in full throttle again soon. MMA, as usual, keeps up with the issues that affects the medical fraternity and the healthcare sector at all times and had the opportunity to meet up with a few organisations to highlight its views and stands.

In early March, MMA had an interactive meeting with CUEPACS in KL. The MMA delegation was led by me, and CUEPACS by its president, Dato' Dr Haji Adnan Bin Mat. CUEPACS, or the Congress of Unions of Employees in the Public and Civil Services, has almost 1.2 million members. Many issues, mainly pertaining to the issues facing the government sector, were discussed. We also highlighted what MMA is asking for and the CUEPACS EXCO was understanding of the points put forward. In further engaging with CUEPACS, I had also attended the National CUEPACS Hari Raya gathering in Kuching recently.



Meeting with CUEPACS



Meeting with FOMCA

MMA has been bringing up the issue on the need for the GP consultation fee revision very strongly and is thankful that the Health Minister has agreed that a revision of the fees as per the 7th Fee Schedule of Act 586 will be done. The issue of price transparency being implemented under Act 723 and the MMA's reason for asking that this be stopped is also an issue that needs to be explained to prevent the misunderstanding that doctors are secretive and against price transparency. In doing so, MMA also had a meeting with FOMCA, which is the Federation of Malaysian Consumers Associations. MMA conveyed its views and reasons for the need for the GP fee revision (unchanged for 32 years) and the stand of doctors in not supporting the use of Act 723 on the healthcare profession. We also listened to their views and in general, it was an engaging and fruitful meeting. It is imperative that everyone understands the reasons for MMA's stand and requests.

On the price transparency issue and its announced implementation, many had objected to its implementation based on the use of a non-health act as the basis (Act 723). This is an act for the retail sector; GPs are not retailers but providers of professional services. To collate all views, a meeting was organised at MMA, intended to gather all the major healthcare associations in Malaysia. Even though it was the week of Raya, nine associations attended this meeting.



Meeting with various medical-based associations

It was a very good meeting and all the medical-based associations vehemently agreed that the medical profession should only be under the purview of the PHFSA Act (Act 586); any new proposal or regulation, if planned, can and should be under the ambit of this act and discussions with stakeholders should be conducted prior to any implementation. A joint press statement on the matters discussed and the proposals put up for the Ministry of Health was also issued. MMA is not against price transparency but against the use of another non-health act, including the manner and jurisdiction of its enforcement and also the manner in which price transparency is extrapolated to detailed price display requirements, which in its proposed form does not help the patients but only increases the burden to doctors and clinics. MMA is hopeful that the implementation as announced will be halted until further engagements are held.



Launch of Sepeda Amal Borneo 2025

Sepeda Amal Borneo is an annual event organised by SCHOMOS to help raise funds for charity organisations. This year, the event will help to raise funds for MAPPAC (Malaysian Association of Paediatric Palliative Care). While last years' event was in Sarawak, this year it will be in Sabah, where cyclists will be cycling from Sandakan to Kota Kinabalu in a 600-km ride from 28 July to 3 August 2025. An event to launch this fundraising initiative was held at MMA recently and this is something everyone should support.

The upcoming month sees a lot of activities and will keep all of us busy and as usual, we will highlight all. Till the next article, stay positive and stay healthy!