

President's Message



Dr N Ganabaskaran
President
dr.ganabaskarn@gmail.com

Budget 2020

It is encouraging to note that quite a number of issues highlighted by MMA are being addressed with allocations in Budget 2020. Allocations have been made for the building and upgrading of hospitals, health and dental clinics, renovation of infrastructure, upgrading of medical equipment and facilities as well as budgets to increase ambulances.

The healthcare budget will also see enhancements in schemes such as MySalam and Peka B40 which will continue to benefit the B40s. However, more awareness will be needed to emphasise the importance of regular check-ups among Malaysians. It was reported in the media that only 100,000 had signed up for the healthcare protection scheme since it was launched even though it is available for free at registered health and private clinics! Perhaps this is an area for our members, in particular our GPs, to increase public awareness.

We are also pleased that a sizeable sum of RM57 million has also been allocated for the health and welfare of the Orang Asli Community. MMA is in full support of this truly significant step taken by the government in efforts towards achieving Universal Healthcare.

Overall, it is a well-balanced healthcare budget and the increase by 6.6% to RM30.6 billion is fair, taking into consideration our country's current financial health and economy. However, one of the disappointments in its healthcare budget is its failure to address the lack of positions in government hospitals and remunerations to keep specialists and support staff serving in government hospitals.



L-R: Dr Ahmad Parveez Ghulam Kadir (DG, Ministry of Primary Industries), Datuk Dr Kalyana Sundram (CEO, MPOC), Dr L Sivanaesan, Dr Koh Kar Chai, Dr Thirunavukarasu Rajoo, YB Theresa Kok (Minister of Primary Industries), Mr S N Nair (Chairman, Malaysian Rubber Board), Dr N Ganabaskaran and Ms Rissa Soetama



MMA Exco Members with Minister of Health, YB Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad



Meeting with YB Gobind Singh Deo – Minister of Communications and Multimedia on 10th October 2019



Celebrating Deputy Minister of Health YB Dr Lee Boon Chye's birthday at the 2019 Third Age & Longevity Economy Forum

This should have been included and allocations should have been made for this extremely important area in our healthcare system. We have highlighted this on several occasions through the media and we will keep bringing this up at every opportunity in our meetings with MOH.

Meeting with YB Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad – Health Minister of Malaysia

A meeting was also held with Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad to discuss SCHOMOS,

PPS and other issues but hot on the agenda was the issue of fees charged for the compulsory medical examinations for vocational drivers. We have briefed the Minister and he understands our position. However, there are some hurdles ahead as JPJ had reverted to using the L8 form for renewals of vocational driving license and the fee of RM80 for the medical examinations to be charged has been removed altogether from the forms.

We are concerned that this may give rise to under-cutting, which may amount to block discounts and fee splitting. MMA takes a serious view of this and will be seeking further engagement with JPJ and the Transport Ministry to address this issue. We wish to remind all GPs of the medico legal implications and their responsibility in conducting the medical examinations thoroughly as well as charge appropriately as stipulated in the 7th fee schedule.

Meetings with the Ministers

Separate meetings were also held with Minister of Federal Territories YB Tuan Khalid Samad, Minister of Primary Industries YB Teresa Kok and Minister of Communications and Multimedia YB Gobind Singh Deo and we have highlighted some of the issues faced by the healthcare sector. MMA had also expressed its continued support for efforts promoting Palm Oil nationally and globally in the meeting held with YB Teresa Kok.

Employee of the Month and Lucky Draw

Staff wellbeing is an area that needs to be given importance and I believe, can make a world of difference. MMA, since July had launched an Employee of the Month incentive with a cash prize and Staff Lucky Draw to recognise staff for their

hard work and contributions to our organization. The Lucky Draw prizes are fully sponsored by yours truly!

MMA Health Carnival 2020

Work has already begun for the planning of the MMA Health Carnival to be held nationwide on 18 January 2020. I have already begun speaking to sponsors and potential partners and we will have more updates in the next issue of Berita. We have already received blessings from YB Dzulkefly and the Ministry of Health and most of the state branches have expressed support for this truly good cause.

Finally, I wish to take this opportunity to wish all those celebrating their birthdays in November, a Happy and Blessed Birthday!

Live Life Meaningfully!

Berita MMA Editorial Board Policy

Berita MMA is an official publication of Malaysian Medical Association. The purpose of Berita MMA is to disseminate timely information of members' views, reports, news and leisure articles that interest a broad spectrum of readership. The bulletin is also intended to be a conduit for discussion of issues facing the medical fraternity or highlight thought-provoking articles. Personal attacks, political statements or innuendos are unwelcome.

Any reports of activities like MMA branch events are encouraged to have more insight on a certain topic held; rather than the mundane line of just reporting the date of event, venue, number of participants or chief guest present.

All articles are in English Language. Contributors of articles should make an effort to vet through their articles or seek assistance from their colleagues to have a minimum standard of language that is acceptable for publication. Plagiarism is frowned upon.

Submitted articles are subject to revisions and minimum language corrections by the editor. We envisage having a diverse range of both articles and contributors. The right to publish is at the sole discretion of the Editorial Board of Berita MMA.

The policy was approved by the Berita MMA Editorial Board on 22 April 2015.