



PERSATUAN PEDIATRIK MALAYSIA

MALAYSIAN PAEDIATRIC ASSOCIATION

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PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Solve the Contract Situation for Junior Doctors and Health Professionals Immediately

The Malaysian Paediatric Association (MPA) supports all junior health professionals, and supports all recent statements by the Malaysian Medical Association (MMA), Islamic Medical Association of Malaysia (IMAM), Malaysian Health Coalition (MHC), and other medical professional bodies on the contract system issue.

Human resource is the most important asset in any country. During this prolonged and painful covid-19 pandemic, the contract medical officers and other health care workers (HCW) were the backbone of our healthcare service, at the frontlines testing, tracing, isolating, treating and supporting the physical and psychological health of our infected and affected rakyat.

We urge the government and the Ministry of Health:

1. To provide some form of respite to our front-liners

Our Medical Officers and the other HCWs are the true front-liners who deal daily and directly with the covid-19 patients. They have been doing this continuously for the past 15 months since the first pandemic wave in March 2020. Many are burnt out, exhausted physically, mentally and emotionally. We recommend that Medical Officers and HCWs who have been working continuously in the A&E, covid wards and covid ICU, be given some form of respite by deploying



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them to work in non-covid areas in the hospitals, rotating with MOs and HCWs in these non-covid facilities.

2. To ensure they are treated fairly as other civil servants and are not discriminated against.

All Medical Officers to be offered a civil service appointment for a minimum period of 10 years, with equal opportunity in their promotion, career advancement and access to post-graduate training based on merit and performance with clear, objective, and transparent criteria.

3. To seriously and promptly undertake transformation of the Healthcare System

The failure of managing the covid pandemic and the contract doctors' issue is just the tip of the iceberg due to poor planning, implementation, and enforcement by both the health and political governance. The underfunded, understaffed, overcrowded, overworked and overstretched healthcare system must be immediately reformed to be fully prepared to address the health demands of the present and future.

Thank you.

Dr Hung Liang Choo
President
Malaysian Paediatric Association
04 July 2021