



## PERSEKUTUAN PERSATUAN DOKTOR PERUBATAN SWASTA MALAYSIA FEDERATION OF PRIVATE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS' ASSOCIATIONS, MALAYSIA

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### **SPEECH FROM THE CO-ORGANISING CHAIRMAN**

Malaysia's healthcare system is unwell.

The Harvard team stated in its report to the Health Ministry in 2016 "...Malaysia demonstrates a classic case of asymmetric transition, where the rapid transitions in context have not been matched with a corresponding transition in the health system to better address the current and future needs of the population."

This is reflected in the premature mortality of the young of all races; stagnation in the reduction of the maternal mortality rate; economic hardship even to the point of insolvency with diagnoses of cancer, ischaemic heart disease, stroke and even rotavirus infection in children; and malnourishment with 1 in 5 children stunted, 1 in 10 underweight and 1 in 4 overweight.

The ageing of the population; increasing patients' expectations; middlemen taking a share of the inadequate healthcare ringgit; oversupply of medical graduates; bullying of healthcare staff; and medical errors add to the complexity of challenges facing the healthcare system.

There is a strong case for the establishment of a Royal Commission on Healthcare to inquire into the existing and future need for safe and quality healthcare services and the resources to provide such services; and to recommend the necessary measures to ensure that everyone stay healthy, continue to have universal health coverage and that no one is left out.

With the current global focus on patients' rights and the need for improvements in healthcare delivery, it is timely for the establishment of a Health Ombudsman System, reporting to Parliament, which shall safeguard patients and healthcare staff's needs, interests and legal rights; evaluate the cost effectiveness of healthcare services; as well as improve the safety and quality of healthcare facilities and services.

Dr Milton Lum Siew Wah  
Co-Organising Chairman  
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