



**PRIME MINISTER  
MALAYSIA**

## **MESSAGE**

### **FEDERATION OF PRIVATE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS' ASSOCIATIONS, MALAYSIA SPECIAL DINNER FUNCTION ON 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018**

It is indeed a pleasure to pen a few words for the Federation of Private Medical Practitioners' Associations, Malaysia (FPMPAM) and the Organising Committee of in this special meeting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> FPMPAM / IPH Annual Scientific Convention 2018 incorporating the 1<sup>st</sup> FPMPAM Malaysian Healthcare Conference 2018.

Access to affordable, quality and compassionate medical care is rakyat's expectation as well as being the objective of the Government of Malaysia. The private health fraternity has an important role to play.

As frontline health providers, I'm sure you're aware of the aims of the forthcoming Global Conference on Primary Health Care to be hosted by the Government of Kazakhstan, the World Health Organisation and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October which is to strengthen primary health care as the foundation for Universal Health Coverage. In partnership with your colleagues in the public sector you should now look at new opportunities to succeed and to build on evidence of what works for our healthcare system.

In 2014, the distribution of public versus private primary healthcare facilities (PHCF) was 6,978 and 2,871 respectively. Private practitioners provide care for mainly acute conditions and account for forty percent of utilisation of PHCF. Reports have shown that private GP service, especially by solo-practitioners, provides an important component of our primary care needs, complementing what is provided by the government.

The role of the solo-practitioner, being the backbone of this service, must be recognised and protected from the forces of commercialisation which invariably increases healthcare cost. The government's *Peduli-Sihat* programme which will be implemented nationwide will see the realisation of a win-win private-public partnership in Malaysian healthcare delivery and consolidate the role of GPs in primary care for the betterment of our *rakyat*.

In keeping with this increased responsibility, GPs must also keep in touch with the changes and development in their field of medicine as well as the important socio-medico-legal implications of medical care delivery. I am glad to note that this meeting caters for the continuing professional development needs for doctors to be healers of the sick as well as to take on advocacy for good governance and leadership.



**DR MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD**

4 September 2018