



MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FPMPAM ADDRESSES DISCONNECTION WITH PATIENTS ARISING FROM COMMERCIALISATION OF MEDICAL CARE

Kuala Lumpur, (14 August 2014) – The Federation of Private Medical Practitioner's Associations Malaysia (FPMPAM) feels that there is now a noticeable disconnection between patients and their doctors resulting from the rapid commercialisation of medical care in Malaysia. The previous social contract of the doctor and the patient is clearly being threatened by the commercial contract of the business of medicine. For decades, doctors are guided by the dictum “to heal sometimes, to comfort always and never to harm”. Today commercial entities owning and running medical care services are only answerable to board of directors and shareholders while the patients' interest are not prioritised.

With this, the FPMPAM has taken the step to provide useful healthcare related information to the public and be a gateway for the public to recognise and communicate directly with their doctors. The Federation has planned several initiatives this year including the introduction of Doctor's Day and the launch of public platforms for easier communication and information – FPMPAM Facebook and website.

With all the trials and tribulations over the years, the Federation has decided that it is time to recognize and appreciate doctors for their care and service. According to Dr Steven Chow, President of the FPMPAM, “Doctor's Day has been celebrated in other places such as the United States, India and Europe for some time. The time has come to celebrate Doctor's Day in Malaysia.” A simple card, a kind note of appreciation, or simply wishing your doctors good health will go a long way to amalgamise the doctor-patient relationship.

“On 10th October, the Federation, together with the Perak Medical Practitioners' Society (PMPS) will organise a short weekend retreat in Ipoh for doctors, their families and guest. Doctor's Day 2014 has received support from the Malaysian Medical Association Perak and Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Perak. Further details and updates will be posted on the Federation website and Facebook” Dr Kamalanathan Raju, President of the PMPS, adds.

In addition, the FPMPAM has also launched its Facebook page to serve as a platform for Malaysians to interact with doctors and be updated on issues pertaining to private healthcare. Besides addressing public policy and daily healthcare issues, the page also shares various tips on how to manage and address common healthcare matters. Recent posts include haze related healthcare issues and tips on maintaining a well balanced diet during Ramadhan. Through its “Ask Your Doctor” initiative, the Federation accepts and replies any healthcare related questions. To participate, log on to the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/fmpam>.

To consolidate the Federation's efforts and as a one stop center for all information pertaining to the FPMPAM and healthcare related issues, the FPMPAM website has been revamped.

The website features write-ups by the FPMPAM, current healthcare news, Newsletters and up to date information on the Federation's activities and initiatives that the public can participate in. In addition, new apps and tools will be added on soon to provide the public with readily available information. For more information log on to www.fpmpam.org.

In light of the increasing commercialization of healthcare, these initiatives are in hopes of providing Malaysian's a platform to communicate with one another. Ultimately, communication will enable for a combined doctor and patient lobby that can help shape the future of healthcare in Malaysia which places the patient's interest first and foremost.

In response to the Federation's 2014 initiatives, Dr. Steven Chow says, "We are pleased with the progression of the Federations efforts to impact the public's lives to date. This year, we have kicked off many newer initiatives including lobbying for Automated External Defibrillator installations in key community areas; training the public in emergency responses and our continued mission to de-stigmatize drug addiction. We look forward to the participation from the public on our various platforms on Facebook and the website. Also, do join us in celebrating Doctor's Day on 10 October."

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About the Federation of Private Medical Practitioners' Associations Malaysia

The FPMPAM is the national body representing doctors in private practice in Malaysia. FPMPAM is committed to improve the quality of private health care through continuing medical education, continuing professional development of its members, ethics advocacy and public outreach programs. Founded in 1989, it consists of seven state-level associations and has over 5,000 members. For more information on the FPMPAM, please visit <http://fpmpam.org> or <https://www.facebook.com/fpmpam>.

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