



PPS Report

DR KOH KAR CHAI

PPS Chairman

“Selamat Hari Raya to all our Muslim friends and colleagues from PPS.”

The Primary Care Development Technical Working Group (PHC TWG) on the 1Care for 1Malaysia is at the moment the only group among all the TWGs on 1Care with the largest representation from the private sector.

Their representation here is rather fragmented, in the sense that some of the representatives are there to represent themselves and hence their personal views and that some of the representatives are not too regular with their presence at the meetings. However, the diversity of views may be needed to come up with a model that is well rounded.

Contrary to what some believe, a large number of representatives are not what is needed, as the group will then lose focus. A few representatives from the various associations are all that is really needed, though a caveat applies. The representatives must be able to present the views of their members well and must also have the mandate to be representing their association.

There are a few questions that we must ask ourselves:

- Do we know what we want for this proposed 1Care health system?
- Do we know enough about our present system to enable us to reform?
- Do we care only about our own future or about the future of healthcare in our nation?
- Do we trust those on 'the other side' (Ministry of Health - MOH) and do those on the other side trust those of us who are in the private sector?

There are so many 'DO WEs' and so many questions with no definitive answers at the moment that we will definitely be hampered in our progress if we keep on questioning and waiting for answers.

Both sides of the divide should move ahead, putting their heads and minds together in this effort to come up with something which is workable for everyone. Idealistic it may be, naive I may be, but I am for dispelling the notion that those in MOH are hiding things from us and herding us to wherever they want us to go. I am also for dispelling the notion that those in the private sector need to be taught to 'toe the line' or forever face the consequences of their 'actions'.

All should understand that ultimately, we will need to work together in this single system of healthcare. In order to survive the system, and in order for the system

to evolve, we need to join hands. I use the word 'evolve' because I believe that we shouldn't just announce, 'Yes at last, we have a 1Care for 1Malaysia' and then expect all (healthcare providers and healthcare recipients) to embrace it, 'lock, stock and barrel'.

I believe that, yes, we can have a 1Care system, but it should be allowed to evolve even after implementation. Our country is such that we have all sorts of 'variations' which are not seen by the other countries on which we seek to base our healthcare model. Nothing should be cast in stone. Guidelines which are issued should be just guidelines, and not to be used as punitive measures to ensure that everyone 'toe the line'.

I, too, believe that after the implementation of 1Care, we will still be learning from mistakes that we have made and will continue to make. And true to us doctors, we learn from our mistakes and forge our success from our failures.

For our doctors who are registered with FOMEMA, your yearly quota has been increased from 500 to 700. The call goes out to FOMEMA doctors that we should be ethical in the way foreign medical workers are examined. I presume that FOMEMA understands how black sheep will always be there in any profession. But on the whole, FOMEMA registered doctors have been doing a good job at keeping our nation safe from infectious diseases brought in by a migrant population. (I want to add that infectious diseases are seen in our resident population as well.)

Pharmacy problems being faced by our member doctors have been taken into cognizance. Our relationship with the Pharmacy division of MOH is heading towards a beneficial level. We have recognised the need for regular interaction to nurture a better understanding of issues faced by both the medical practitioners and the Pharmacy division.

Accreditation of future GPs has been on the lips of every other medical practitioner of late. You will be pleased to know that our Hon. Health Minister and our new DG of Health have been very understanding of this matter and have said that there shouldn't be any compulsory accreditation of GPs who are duly qualified. However, all GPs are encouraged to improve themselves professionally, which is in the best interest of their patients. My call at the moment would be to attend as many CPD programmes as you can in order to garner a respectable level of CPD points. **M**