

27 July 2007

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

MMA IS WORRIED ABOUT THE INCREASING ATTACKS ON CLINICS

The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) is very concerned about the recent report of robbery and rape in a clinic. The increasing incidence of this nature are threatening the very existence of evening and 24-hour private medical clinics, which provide a vital service to communities in housing estates and faraway places, especially in times of need. The physical harm to the patient, staff and doctors and threat to life is really causing anguish.

After previous spates of robberies, though clinics have taken precautions to deter these incidences, they seem to have re-surfaced. It is vital for the Police and the local authorities to urgently address this issue and to institute measures to stop this immediately. If nothing is done, due to the inherent fear, doctors may not be able to render medical services to the residents around the housing estates after 5.00 p.m. and throughout the night thus depriving the communities of a vital service.

Many clinics have had to be extra vigilant in providing treatment to patients after office hours, and this has and will lead to clinics refusing to see "patients" they are not familiar with or those who look suspicious, bring them in conflict to the provisions of the Private Healthcare Act. There is an urgent need for all those in the delivery of healthcare and public safety to address this urgent issue so that this essential service to the public can be maintained.

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