

19 November 2008

## **PRESS STATEMENT**

### **MMA LAUDS THE SCRAP OF E-KESIHATAN**

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The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) lauds the announcement by the Honorable Minister of Transport, Datuk Seri Ong Tee Keat that the e-Kesihatan system has been scrapped. This has been a long awaited move by the Ministry of Transport which the MMA has been anxiously looking forward to.

All doctors in the country are registered with the MMC and therefore, there is no need for a middle person to register doctors again and to create a panel for this. Any driver can go to any doctors wherever he is. All doctors can do the medical examination and drug screening.

We hope that while implementing any new scheme, there are sufficient safeguards to ensure orderly and ethical work practices. As road traffic accidents is a major cause of morbidity and mortality in this country, a great deal of attention is mandatory to make sure that any new scheme introduced will contribute to the reduction of this scourge and improve safety on our roads.

The MMA had long been involved in this important road safety issue. We have worked with the regulatory agencies to ensure that serious illnesses that may afflict commercial drivers are screened before the issuance of license and also for annual renewal.

The MMA's technical committee has prepared a detailed format of the clinical and laboratory tests relevant for screening and certification of drivers to drive commercial vehicles. We would like to urge the JPJ to kindly consult the MMA and other relevant authorities before any such scheme is in the future. We realize that there are many stakeholders in the transport industry but safety should not be compromised either because of cost or lobby pressure.

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