

6 October 2008

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

E-KESIHATAN

The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) welcomes the Minister of Transport's announcement : *"The Government will scrap the controversial plan to allow a private company to run its medical check up scheme for commercial vehicle drivers"* (The Star, 6 October 2008), but is surprised this decision and the methodology to be used has not been discussed with the profession. We hope that while implementing the new scheme, there are sufficient safeguards to ensure orderly and ethical work practices. As road traffic accidents are 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'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 strongly feel that the MMA representing the medical profession can work with the JPJ and relevant authorities to implement this scheme which it has championed for years. We realize that there are many stakeholders in the transport industry but safety should not be compromised either because of cost or lobby pressure. We earnestly hope that an early decision can be made and after due consultation.

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