

29 February 2008

**PRESS STATEMENT
ON
E-KESIHATAN**

The Road Transport Department (JPJ) announced that effective 1 October 2007, it will be compulsory for all commercial vehicle drivers to undergo medical tests at clinics appointed by the RTD before they can renew their vocational licenses. The gateway provider is Supreme Systems, a government appointed company who will be managing the *e-kesihatan*.

The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) was surprised and concerned by the apparent award to Supreme Systems Sdn Bhd, a private company, to monitor medical examinations of commercial vehicle drivers. The negotiation of launching the *e-kesihatan* scheme on October 1, 2007 was between the RTD, Ministry of Transport and the private company. The Ministry of Health and the largest medical body, which is the MMA, were never consulted. The advertisement calling for doctors to register with the company alerted and alarmed the medical profession.

The MMA led protests over this matter and many parties including the Ministry of Health supported the objections. The protests resulted in a Cabinet decision NOT to implement the scheme.

The Association has been invited for a meeting on Monday, 3 March 2008, to confirm the agreement between the Ministry of Transport and a private company over this multi million ringgit award. This scheme is going to affect more than one million taxi drivers, tour and school bus drivers as well as lorry drivers. The MMA is very surprised that we have now being called for this meeting on this issue. We were assured that there would be further discussion between the government, the private company and the MMA before any decision is made. However, till to date, we have not being invited by any party to discuss about this matter.

The MMA is very concerned that the much derided *e-kesihatan* scheme for the monitoring of medical examination of commercial drivers is being hurried through this period of interim government in the midst of the election period.

We appeal to the Prime Minister to intervene and not allow such a major project award, affecting the livelihood of many and which expressly contravenes the decision of the last Cabinet.

**BY : DATO' DR KHOO KAH LIN
PRESIDENT**