

1 December 2008

PRESS STATEMENT
ON
MMA'S VIEW ON CIVIL SERVANTS CAN OPT FOR PENSION SCHEME

The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) read with interest the statement made by the Honorable Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi that civil servant who had opted for the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) can exercise their option to revert to the pension scheme in January 2009.

This proposal was initially put forward by the Section Concerning House Officer and Specialists (SCHOMOS), MMA through the Health Ministry last year. Many doctors were not aware of the benefits for pension scheme when they opted for the EPF scheme earlier. Now, many doctors would like to revert back to pension scheme especially those who want to continue working for the government. They will be able to enjoy all the benefits currently entitled to pensioners, such as free medical treatment. This will also prevent further brain drain of specialists and experienced senior medical officers to the private sector. We are happy this benefit is extended to the rest of the public civil servants.

We are also happy to hear the decision that the parents of civil servants, who have passed away and were single at that time, will also receive ex-gratia payments.

The MMA feels that the government is always concerned about their employees' welfare and many other incentives have been announced this year which includes extension of retirement age to 58 years old, COLA allowance, increment of the specialist allowance and bonus even though the country is now facing economic downturn.

We hope that all public civil servants including doctors will continuously support the government by working harder with more dedication and professionalism in order to achieve the country's needs and aspirations.

DATO' DR KHOO KAH LIN
PRESIDENT