

8 March 2009

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

KUGAN'S CASE : CONFLICTING AUTOPSY REPORTS

The conflict in the two autopsy reports related to Kugan Ananthan has caused all Malaysians to speculate on the reasons for the contrasting differences between the reports. So glaring are the differences between the two reports that the first Pathologist appears incompetent at the least. The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) is gravely concerned about the issue.

If the second autopsy report is accurate, and there is much to say that it is, then the Pathologist who performed the first autopsy was either negligent in the performance of his duty or was coerced into reporting as he did. The MMA is deeply concerned with this in either case, and condemns the first autopsy and report.

The MMA has always maintained that doctors must be objective in their examinations, and the reports that they issue; they must not be influenced by any authority. In the current case, once the truth is ascertained the MMA will consider taking the doctor concerned to task and refer him to the Malaysian Medical Council (MMC) if deemed necessary.

The MMA is heartened by the Director General of Health, Tan Sri Dr Ismail Merican's statement, reported in the Sunday Star of 8 March 2009, that "In the interest of justice and fair play, the Health Ministry will initiate an independent inquiry into the two post-mortem reports of A Kugan who died while in police custody" and that "the outcome of the inquiry would be made public."

The MMA is equally concerned with the fact that Kugan Ananthan died whilst in police custody. This is not the first such incident. The MMA condemns such custodial deaths and urges the government to take the necessary remedial actions to ensure that it never happens again.

BY : DATO' DR KHOO KAH LIN
PRESIDENT
MALAYSIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION