

5 March 2009

PRESS STATEMENT

The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) has been informed of issues arising from the decanting of patients from the 'unsafe' Hospital Queen Elizabeth in Kota Kinabalu. The patients have been distributed to various hospitals in the capital and the surrounding towns. The Ministry of Health (MOH) must be praised for the swift response to this unforeseen crisis. It is commendable that the patients are being cared for in both the private and public sector in this emergency situation.

However, any such deployment of beds should only be temporary and logistic issues will impair the continuity and quality of care. The doctors on the ground are dedicated and hard working despite very challenging conditions. This fragmentation of crucial services will be detrimental to patient safety and good clinical practice. The MMA hopes that the MOH is able to expedite support and resources for a sustainable and long term solution to this unfortunate situation.



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