

6 March 2009

**PRESS STATEMENT
ON
SOCSO**

The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) is concerned with the current development on the issue of SOCSO and doctors being labeled as 'robbers' of patients.

The Private Practitioners' Section of the MMA (PPSMMA) has conducted numerous courses on Occupational Health issues. The Society of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (SOEM) also conducts numerous courses to update all doctors dealing with SOCSO and occupational health cases. If there are any issues involved, the Minister should request the Chief Executive of SOCSO to have a dialogue with the MMA or SOEM and not condemn doctors in general in the media.

Medicine is a noble profession and the 21,000 doctors in the government and private sector have taken the Hippocratic Oath to serve with dedication and to practice ethically.

The panel of doctors serving the industries is knowledgeable in detecting diseases aggravated or caused by workplace hazards. Having studied for 5 years in medical schools and attending many courses in Occupational Medicine, doctors are not ignorant. The Minister should have quoted examples of such cases or request the Chief Executive of SOCSO to deal with such problems.

The MMA would like to propose a dialogue with the Ministry of Human Resources, Malaysian Employers Federation, MTUC and SOCSO to discuss about this matter amicably and not make blatant statements in the Press which is tarnishing the medical profession in general and doctors specifically.



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