



Press Statement

“Clarification of Healthcare Allocations in Budget 2021”

10th November 2020 - Malaysian Medics International (MMI) would like to thank the government for the 4% increase in the Ministry of Health (MOH)’s allocation in Budget 2021. We are also appreciative of the MOH’s allocation of emoluments for contract staff. At the same time, we firmly stand by our call for permanent position allocations. Hence, we urge the MOH to clarify the health allocations in Budget 2021.

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly affected Malaysia’s economy in all aspects. Hence, it is pertinent to allocate larger sums to proceedings pertaining to the pandemic. Simultaneously, we urge the government to not overlook the ongoing health issues in Malaysia. Despite assurance from the Finance Minister and MOH that there has not been a reduction in our medical budget, the decrease from RM 14.2 billion in 2020 to RM 11.3 billion in 2021 indicates a significant 20.5% reduction in funding.¹⁻² Malaysia has been recognised and accredited globally as one of the leading countries with a top-tier healthcare system within the past few years.³ We can only hope to see Malaysia continue to lead in the world of modern medicine, enforcing our position in the global eye, and at the same time, improving the health of Malaysians.

Even though it was stated that there has been no fund reduction for non-communicable diseases (NCDs), the budget breakdown shows that there is a budget cut in nephrology (-77.61%), pharmaceutical and supplies (-73.58%), cardiothoracic (-66.70%), and radiology and oncology (-58.49%). As we have previously indicated, Malaysia is heading towards an ageing population.⁴⁻⁵ This will only result in an increased demand for healthcare resources, particularly NCDs, which remain to be common amongst the ageing population.⁶

In conclusion, MMI urges the government to clarify the healthcare allocations and its breakdown, not only with respect to COVID-19, but also for NCDs. This will allow the *rakyat* to understand the measures taken by the government in response to the COVID-19 situation without any compromise on the lives and health of Malaysians.

Thank you.

MALAYSIAN MEDICS INTERNATIONAL
TERM 2020/2021

About Malaysian Medics International (MMI)

MMI is an international medical student-led organisation that aims to connect, educate, and cultivate. Since our inception in 2013, we have grown into a global network of more than 200 leaders from seven countries around the world. Presently, we are an active advocate for inclusivity and diversity, reform in medical education, and the welfare of our junior doctors and medical students.

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