



PRESS STATEMENT MALAYSIAN MEDICAL COUNCIL

CLARIFICATION REGARDING PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE MALAYSIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THORACIC AND CARDIOVASCULAR SURGERY (MATCVS)

The Malaysian Medical Council (MMC) views with great concern the Press Statement issued by the Malaysian Association for Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery (MATCVS) on 4th February 2024 and the articles published in The Star on 23rd March 2024.

The MMC's function under the Medical Act 1971 is to register medical practitioners and to regulate the practice of medicine. On 01.07.2017, the Act was amended to entrust the MMC with the responsibility of registering specialists in the Specialist Register as well as to recognise specialist qualifications and training. Accordingly, the MMC is committed to ensuring that medical practitioners registered to practice in this country possess recognised qualifications and have undergone training in accordance with the highest standards of the profession, in the interest of public safety and health.

MMC notes the concern regarding the disparity between the number of Cardiothoracic surgeons in public service compared to the private sector. However, the brain drain from the public to the private sector is beyond the jurisdiction of the MMC.

The MMC wishes to place on record that it is not against any of the programmes in the "Parallel Pathway" nor is it in the process of discontinuing these programmes as claimed by several quarters. MMC's interest is in ensuring that the training

programmes conducted in the country fulfil the relevant legal and statutory requirements. In fact, there are several programmes in the 'Parallel Pathway' which have been recognised by the MMC, while in the case of those still not yet recognised, the relevant bodies have been informed to take steps to fulfil the relevant legal requirements for accreditation and recognition.

The MMC denies that the Fellow of Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (RCSEd) in Cardiothoracic Surgery was at any time recognised by the MMC. However, the MMC takes note of the issues pertaining to registration of graduates of this programme, and has set up a Task Force with a view to arriving at a resolution of the issues as quickly as possible, which will be communicated to the relevant stakeholders in due course.

Thank you.

**DATUK DR. MUHAMMAD RADZI BIN ABU HASSAN
THE PRESIDENT
MALAYSIAN MEDICAL COUNCIL**

25th March 2024