

**35th CMAAO General Assembly and 56th Council Meeting
September 2-3, 2021**

SYMPOSIUM PAPER

**Report by Prof Dr Subramaniam Muniandy,
the President of the Malaysian Medical Association (MMA)**

Greetings to all my CMAAO colleagues.

The whole world is in a war against a virus that has attacked and changed the global health by creating a pandemic. We in MALAYSIA are still trying to overcome this rather prolonged pandemic for more than two years and are still struggling with the problem.

For the NMA it was a late start for the year. The present Committee took office in the midst of the arrival of the infection and as would be expected had to delve straight into the endemic which was subsequently declared a pandemic.

The origin of the virus is not fully and adequately answered, though speculations are rife. Corona virus arrived on the Malaysian shores through a large unsuspected religious gathering. From this focus point the viral infection spread rapidly.

While the government health authorities were struggling to control the spread of Covid, MALAYSIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION stretched out its long arm of assistance to work in cooperation with the health authorities to confront the spread of the virus.

MMA raised a few million Ringgit Malaysia (RM) through donations by cash and kind, to furnish essential equipment to the public sector to help manage the pandemic. This private-public partnership helped to minimise the spread of disease. In one of the island states, Sabah, there was an overwhelming spread of the virus almost paralysing the public health services. During this period the government held a by election in Sabah. This led to uncontrolled movement between the Sabah and the mainland which caused the further spread of the virus, affecting almost every corner of the country. There was an increase in the number of cases from a single digit to four digits and the struggle still continues to date with present infection rates at around 20,000 per day.

This pandemic has not only taken the toll on the health of man power but also affected the economy of the country. This was due to lockdown on two occasions and targeted movement control on a number of occasions, according to the swinging of infection rates.

What has MMA done?

Food and essential necessities are now being supplied to the lower income category to help them to overcome this economic downturn.

We have worked very closely with health authorities to control and manage the infections. MMA was instrumental in getting the private doctor to join hands with the Government sector

to carry out widespread screening and vaccination. The aim is to achieve the targeted 80% herd immunity in the community as quickly as possible.

MMA also extended some timely financial assistance to India, through the Indian Medical Association to acquire necessary emergency equipment.

Another project that MMA is involved in, is assisting newly graduated doctors to seek appropriate positions in their medical journey.

MMA believes that this pandemic is best managed between the cooperation of private and public health sectors nationally. Exchange of ideas between International bodies will further enhance our collective efforts to overcome this pandemic.

Thank you.