



PRESS STATEMENT: MALAYSIAN ASSOCIATION OF SPORTS MEDICINE (MASM)

For Immediate Release

Malaysian Association of Sports Medicine (MASM) Welcomes and Supports the Good Samaritan Act Initiative

The Malaysian Association of Sports Medicine (MASM) fully supports the initiative by the Minister of Health, YB Dr. Dzulkefly Ahmad, to introduce the Good Samaritan Act in Malaysia. This progressive legislation will empower and protect individuals who provide emergency assistance during critical situations, including medical emergencies such as sudden cardiac arrest (SCA), which can occur in sports or among active individuals.

Sudden cardiac arrest remains a significant concern in sports, affecting both elite athletes and recreational sportspersons. As highlighted in previous MASM statements, we emphasize the critical need for prompt and effective medical intervention, including access to high-quality cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automated external defibrillators (AEDs). The Good Samaritan Act will reduce hesitation among bystanders to intervene, knowing they are legally protected when acting in good faith to save lives.

The Good Samaritan Act is already well-established in many countries, including Belgium, Germany, Australia, the United Kingdom, the United States, Japan, and China, where it has proven effective in saving lives and encouraging public participation during emergencies. However, such legislation is notably absent in Southeast Asia. By implementing this Act, Malaysia has the unique opportunity to take the lead in the region, setting a benchmark for others to follow and reinforcing its role as a regional advocate for health and safety.

MASM has long advocated for:

1. Pre-participation screening programs, including cardiac evaluations, to identify individuals at risk of cardiac issues.
2. Emergency action plans at all sports facilities and events to ensure quick and efficient responses to medical emergencies.
3. Education and training programs for coaches, athletes, and the public in CPR and AED use.

MASM is committed to working closely with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and other relevant stakeholders to enhance the safety and well-being of Malaysia's sports ecosystem. This collaboration is crucial to ensuring that the Good Samaritan Act is effectively implemented within the sports community, particularly in creating a culture of safety, preparedness, and awareness at all levels of participation.

The implementation of the Good Samaritan Act aligns with MASM's mission of safeguarding the health and safety of Malaysia's sporting community. MASM calls upon sports organizations, coaches, athletes, and the general public to support this initiative by participating in training and awareness programs and ensuring AEDs are readily available at sports venues.

Together, we can reduce the risk of sudden cardiac arrest, create a safer sports ecosystem, and position Malaysia as a leading figure in Southeast Asia for progressive health and safety initiatives.

Malaysian Association of Sports Medicine (MASM)

18th December 2024