

## Insight into GMOA crisis - June 2014

GMOA is an apolitical, democratic professional association and a trade union with a prestigious history of 88 years. GMOA faced a challenging situation in June 2014 when 20 members who have been rejected by the membership repeatedly in democratically held elections, abused the legal system to cripple the organization and hold its 20,000 strong membership hostage.

Furthermore, they tried to imprison the democratically elected President of GMOA and the independent Election Committee. As such, many vital GMOA activities with implications on both the medical profession and the country at large came to a grinding halt. Some of them were

1. Attending **transfer boards** to ensure **EQUITABLE** deployment of Specialists, Medical Administrators and Medical Officers' island wide to safeguard quality of health care delivered to all citizens, rich and poor alike. Furthermore, GMOA has historically safeguarded a rational deployment system via transfer schemes without entertaining political and other influences.
2. The Tamil/Sinhala Language training programme initiated in 2013 was due for the 8<sup>th</sup> group of pre-intern doctors of the 2007 A/L batch at NILET, Agalawatta.
3. The Good Intern Programme II for the prospective intern batch.
4. Communication skills workshop- III for medical officers to uplift the quality of service.
5. Schooling of doctors' children for the academic year of 2014 and 2015.
6. Welfare activities for members including personal loans, car passes and vehicle insurance.
7. Grade promotions of medical officers.
8. Revising the basic salary of the doctors and developing a better salary structure for the government sector.

Issues with national importance

1. Revision of the drug policy
2. Implementation of GMOA proposals to mitigate Chronic Kidney Disease of unknown origin in collaboration with the presidential task force.
3. Implementation of 10 proposals by GMOA to ensure safety and self-sufficiency of milk food.

**The independent judiciary made following judgment's on the conduct of above 20 members.**

1. District Court, Colombo ruled that anti-GMOA doctors acted with **malicious intent** and had shown **dishonesty** in *Case no. 114-13-DSP* on 28.06.2013.
2. District Court, Mt. Lavinia ruled that anti-GMOA doctors have **abused the legal system**, which is a serious offense, in the *Case no. 1337/ 14/ SPL* on 06.08.2014.
3. District Court, Mt. Lavinia ruled that the two trustees who colluded with anti-GMOA doctors have **violated the GMOA constitution** in the *Case no. 1337/ 14/ SPL* on 06.08.2014.
4. The independent Judiciary **safeguarded democratic rights** of GMOA. This ruling establishes the critically important judicial precedence that a person who can't win an election can't cripple an organization by abusing the legal system, and thereby enshrined democracy.

The independent judiciary upheld justice and democracy by stopping the 20 anti GMOA members, who were rejected by the membership from further damaging the GMOA abusing the legal system.

GMOA has already resumed all the above activities with professional and national interest and will not be deterred by a handful of saboteurs.