



Faculty of Medical Teachers' Association (FMTA)

Faculty of Medical Sciences
University of Sri Jayewardenepura
Nugegoda



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Press release

6th February, 2017

**Faculty of Medical Teachers' Association, University of Sri Jayewardenepura
(FMTA, USJP)**

We teachers of Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura have been silently observing the series of incidents that took place since 2008 up to now regarding the SAITM issue. We had hopeful expectations that authorities will intervene for a reasonable and all party acceptable solution. However with the recent attack on medical students during their peaceful protest on 02.02.2017, we realized that government is deficient in such an intention.

Thus as responsible medical professionals, all academic members of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, USJP express deepest concern, disapproval and disappointment regarding the attack on University students. We wish to highlight the fact that the protest carried out by the students was for a reasonable cause against a medical school established in a forceful manner evading established standards and guidelines set up by the SLMC, the legal body that regulates doctors and medical education for the betterment of the society at large. To date previous or present governments do not seem to respect the concerns or recommendations made by any group of medical professional groups or medical education specialists.

Finally we would also like to remind that as Faculty of Medical Sciences academics, we have not initiated any trade union actions during the past 20 years. However if the government fails to provide impartial solutions for the SAITM issue and also fails to allow SLMC to act independently to maintain and set high standards of the world renowned Sri Lankan medical degree, we are compelled to start stern trade union action. We hope the relevant government authorities will understand that in the end, all scholarly community and professionals will join together to protect the medical profession in the country from unscrupulous elements that try to disregard laid down standards to achieve their personal and unjust goals.

Thank you,

Dr. Hasini Banneheke

President-Faculty of Medical Teachers' Association,
Faculty of Medical Sciences,
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**Faculty Of Medical Science:
TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (FMTA
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