

No.	Topic	Tax/Non-tax related	Issue	Recommendations
1	Health	Non-tax	<p>Primary healthcare treatment or a first line treatment via public healthcare incurs a charge fee ranging of RM1 (general outpatient) and RM5 (Specialist outpatient) per visit. These were introduced in the mid-80s and still used today.</p> <p>The government's collection from these fees, as stipulated under the Fees (Medical) Order 1982 and Fees (Medical) (Amendment) Order 2017, accounted for an estimated one per cent of the amount spent on public health care.</p> <p>However, increasing these fees to reflect Y2023 levels such as RM 10 and RM 50 would mean increases of 900%. This may not be publicly acceptable.</p>	<p>These fees are obsolete, inadequate for meaningful cost recovery, and mislead the public regarding the true cost of health care. These charges act as barriers and should be removed to facilitate future reforms in health care financing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove the RM 1 and RM 5 charge fees for outpatient and specialist care.
2	Health	Non-tax	<p>Government expenditure on health increased 190 per cent over the past 14 years, rising from RM12.6 billion in 2006 to RM36.6 billion in 2021.</p> <p>The existing public health financing model is not sustainable (dates back to mid-80s) and will continue to put massive pressure on the federal expenditure. Reform of health financing is urgently needed but will need time, political support and building of public trust to support proposed reforms such as social health insurance.</p> <p>Infusion of new funds are urgently needed now to invest in modernisation of healthcare system such as electronic medical records, payment of outstanding dues to HCWs, upgrading of working conditions, investment in capacity building and pay adjustments for qualified staff. Funds which the government may not currently have.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a “Health Bond” or “Sukuk Kesihatan” to raise funds for further investment of the health system and to support urgently needed solutions required in the immediate term.
3	Health	Non-tax	<p>Currently, there are tax incentives for couples seeking fertility treatment up to RM 8,000 per year. Should consider similar incentives for contraceptive use.</p> <p>The positive impact of contraceptive on women's health, economic security, its ability to reduce poverty, increase productivity & many economic benefits of investing in such.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer tax incentives for the use of contraceptives for up to RM 1000 per year as a cost-effective way of helping to meet government's Sustainable Development Goals such as reducing maternal mortality & improving gender equality.

4	Health	Tax	<p>Increasing rates of cancer among the population combined with late detection is causing the public healthcare system to be unable to cope with providing quality and effective for all stages of the disease. The coverage of cancer treatment and care under the public healthcare system is currently strained and inadequate in general at Stages 3 and 4.</p> <p>The annual drug budgets in public hospitals struggle to sufficiently accommodate options for innovative cancer therapies despite their role in treatment, due to competing demands from other areas of care.</p> <p>Patients are forced to resort to seeking treatment from private healthcare increasing the likelihood of catastrophic expenditure (defined as 30% of household spending) due to out-of-pocket payments.</p>	<p>There is strong public support for the revenue from sin taxes to be used for preventive health and treatment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocate and earmark 5% of revenue from excise duties imposed on the sale of tobacco and alcohol products (“sin taxes”) to provide funding of an estimated RM 290 million annually for the creation of an advanced cancer treatment fund. <p>This amount is equivalent to 2.3% of total revenue from sin tax (tobacco, alcohol and gambling) collected</p>
5	Health	Non-tax	<p>High rates of out-of-pocket payments (OOP) and years of productive life lost (YPLL) especially among patients with chronic diseases such as late-stage cancer, are causing economic hardship and financial toxicity in households.</p> <p>Compared to other upper-middle-income countries, Malaysia’s OOP for health is increasing (currently approaching 40%, in 2010, it was 30%). 5-year survival rate for some cancers (e.g. lung – 11% and breast – 66%) continue to lag behind other countries in the region.</p> <p>Studies show that these deaths were preventable with treatments that were available in the private sector but not in the public health system.</p>	<p>The COVID-19 experience has underlined the need and life-saving benefits of investing in both preventive health and in the capacity to provide quality care at different phases of treatment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General: Maintain the earlier commitment of RM 36.1 billion for Budget 2023 or increase to RM 38 billion to address staff retention issues. • Cancer specific: Increase allocation for the Radiotherapy and Oncology Services (Ministry of Health) to 1.5% of the total health budget to improve the options and availability of treatment for late-stage cancers. Estimated: RM 500 million (currently RM 329 million or 1.07%)
6	Social Safety Net	Non-tax	<p>For recent previous Budgets, each family were be able to get up to RMI,000 tax exemption for vaccine expenditure. These included pneumococcal, influenza, tetanus, and COVID -19 vaccines.</p> <p>Employers should be similarly encouraged to increase vaccination levels against vaccine preventable diseases such as pneumococcal disease, and influenza. This would increase health in the workplace, increase productivity and reduce healthcare expenditure related to these disease as a result of sick employees.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide tax rebates to companies that encourage their staff to be vaccinated against the same diseases covered under the individual category, as an incentive to protect employees from communicable diseases in the workplace.