

CALL TO BEEF UP HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Covid-19 data needs transparency to ensure info doesn't cause panic, says group

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THE Malaysian Health Coalition has urged the government to improve the country's healthcare system and avoid the blame game.

In a statement issued yesterday, it said the government must keep the people informed of its long-term plans.

To ensure that these are met, the coalition has outlined several suggestions.

They include providing real context for Covid-19 data to ensure information on the pandem-

ic empowers the people and does not cause panic.

It said the numbers were, however, void of context and did not paint the whole picture.

"After one year, the rakyat is reliant on the data provided daily by the Health Ministry. We cannot know the true extent of the pandemic nor the capacity of our healthcare system from the little information provided.

"We reiterate our call to improve health data transparency."

It also said the government

should embrace continuous improvements of the pandemic management and healthcare systems.

It suggested that the government implement a solutions-based approach of corrective and preventive actions to manage the pandemic, following the recent backlog reported in December last year.

"Federal-state and public-private coordination should also be strengthened. After one year, there must be clearer coordina-

tion efforts between federal and state government agencies as well as the public and private sectors.

"We support the public-private partnership between hospitals to manage the influx of Covid-19 patients. The government must not wait until the last moment to broker such collaborations.

"There must be proactive co-operation at all levels of government to ensure all stakeholders are contributing to the national pandemic strategy," it said.