

PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE • 4 FEB 2021

Continuously Improve the System, Not Find Fault

There are many lessons after one year of fighting Covid-19. Therefore, the Malaysian Health Coalition strongly urges the government to continuously improve our health system, avoid the blame game, and keep the Rakyat informed on its long-term plans.

We strongly urge the following:

1. Provide context for Covid-19 data

After one year, the Rakyat is reliant on the data provided daily by the Ministry of Health (MOH). However, the numbers provided are void of context and do not paint the whole picture. We cannot know the true extent of the pandemic nor the capacity of our health system from the little information provided. The government must ensure that information on the pandemic empowers the Rakyat and does not cause panic. We reiterate our call to improve health data transparency (refer to previous statement on [23 October 2020](#)).

2. Embrace Continuous Improvement

After one year, decision-makers must focus on the continuous improvement of our pandemic management and health systems instead of assigning blame for any errors or weaknesses. We refer here to the recent admission of a backlog dating back to December 2020 (as reported on [30 January 2021](#)). In a multi-year pandemic, we understand that errors are inevitable. However, the government must implement a solutions-based approach of Corrective and Preventive Actions to manage the pandemic, not be punitive or shift blame.

3. Strengthen federal-state and public-private coordination

After one year, there must be clearer coordination 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 cooperation at all levels of government to ensure that all stakeholders are contributing to the national pandemic strategy.

The movement control order has been extended until 18 February 2021. It will be for moot if the government does not seize this time to strengthen its long-term plan and continually improve their system.

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Malaysian Health Coalition

Full Signature List on myhealthcoalition.org.

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