

Cheaper to rope in GP clinics

LETTERS

Thursday, 16 Nov 2017

THE opening of a health clinic in a five-storey shoplot in Kota Damansara was seen as a move to provide easy access to healthcare services for people seeking treatment.

I have been made to understand that for this reason, the Government is planning to open more health clinics in commercial premises, including shopping malls.

The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) lauds the Health Ministry's plan and views this as a very positive move in the delivery of healthcare to the rakyat.

On the other hand, we have more than 6,500 registered general practitioner (GP) clinics which are well distributed.

It would be prudent for the Government to use this existing physical infrastructure and their doctors who were trained in government hospitals.

This would save on the cost of capital and operative expenditure. The Health Ministry should engage with the GPs to buy their services and work in partnership rather than open more new clinics.

An example of success in this kind of partnership is the Selangor state government's *Peduli Sihat* scheme for the B40 group.

This proposal to engage the services of GP clinics has been put forward to the Health Minister over the years. I hope the Minister will act positively on it.

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