

28 FEB 1999

GOVT HOSPITAL SERVICE IN M'SIA AMONG THE BEST IN ASIA PACIFIC

MUAR, Feb 28 (Bernama) -- The services provided by government hospitals and clinics in Malaysia are among the best in the Asia Pacific region and are recognised by the World Health Organisation (WHO), Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng said today.

The WHO, in its study in 1993, recognised Malaysia's medical system as having the best services in Asia Pacific and had awarded Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad the gold medal for it in 1994, he said.

The WHO even acknowledged that the health services in the country were better than that in the United States although technology-wise Malaysia was still lagging, he said when commenting on allegations in Harakah, PAS' official organ, that medical and health services in government hospitals were costly and only for the rich.

He said the allegations were unfounded and politically motivated and that PAS was twisting the facts about the success of the Barisan Nasional government which gave serious attention to the health of the low-income group in the country.

Chua said the health service in the country was more comprehensive and the ratio showed that there was a health centre or rural clinic for every five square kilometres.

Besides rural clinics for the interior areas, the government also provided medical services by air and river to areas inaccessible by road and the poor were exempted from paying for medical services at government hospitals and clinics, he said.

-- BERNAMA
SO MKO JK