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Chua-Lab

RM5 MILLION TO SET UP NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH LAB - CHUA

ALOR STAR, May 9 (Bernama) -- The Cabinet has approved an additional RM5 million to the Health Ministry's budget under the Eighth Malaysia Plan to set up the National Public Health Laboratory in Sungai Buloh, Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng said today.

He said the laboratory, which would have very high safety standards, would conduct researches on killer viruses such as the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), Nipah and the Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

"Part of the allocation will be channelled to Universiti Malaya to build and upgrade its laboratory facilities to P3 standard," he told reporters after visiting Alor Star Hospital to check on the preventive measures taken by the hospital to handle SARS cases.

He said this when asked to comment on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement in Bintulu, Sarawak yesterday that the government was setting up a research laboratory to study new diseases that are drug-resistant.

Chua, who declined to reveal the construction cost of the laboratory, said it would be completed by end of next year.

At present, there are two medical research laboratories; one at the Institute of Medical Research) and the other at Universiti Malaya.

He said the laboratories in Malaysia would be connected online with the other research laboratories worldwide.

-- BERNAMA

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