

**Health Ministry seeks RM45mil to upgrade HKL**  
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The Health Ministry has applied for a RM45 million allocation from the Ministry of Finance to upgrade medical facilities at the Kuala Lumpur Hospital (HKL).

Health Minister Liow Tiong Lai said the upgrading of medical facilities was needed to ensure maximum comfort for patients who sought treatment at the hospital.

Liow said the ministry had already submitted the application to Prime Minister Najib Razak who is also the finance minister, for consideration.

"The allocation will be partly used to replace old equipments at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and Coronary Care Unit (CCU). Multi-level parking lots will also be among plans in the pipeline," he told reporters after visiting the Kuala Lumpur Hospital on the first day of Hari Raya Aidilfitri today.

During the visit, Liow also gave out Hari Raya goodies to 100 hospital staff who were working despite today being Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

"The ministry also has plans to build an additional block to the existing paternity ward starting next year, with an allocation of RM600 million.

"We are accepting tenders for the project... once completed, the block will be able to house 400 beds," he said.

**Renewed concern over bird flu**

Meanwhile, HKL Emergency Unit Head Dr Abu Hassan Abdullah said a Day Care Centre and Ambulatory Care Centre (ACC) which will have clinics for specialists, would be built at a cost of RM90 million, opposite the Grand Season Hotel.

"The new five-storey building that is expected to be completed by year end, will be a centre for all specialist clinics. It will be the main centre for referral and consultant cases.

Liow when commenting on United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) renewed concern about H5N1 avian influenza and warning of a "possible major resurgence" of bird flu outbreak and that a vaccine-evading strain has emerged in Vietnam and China, said no report of any mutation has been received.

"However, we are not going to take the situation lightly because the survival rate for the disease is very low," he said.

- Bernama