

Over RM14 Billion Allocated Annually To Provide Health Services
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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 25 (Bernama) -- The government allocates RM14 billion to RM16 billion annually to provide medical services for the people.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai said the allocation made up 98 per cent of the cost of providing the health services.

"With this allocation, the people pay as low as RM1 each to receive medical care," he said at a people's dinner function with the health minister held at the SJK Cina Mun Yee school hall, here, Thursday.

The function, organised by the Wangsa Maju MCA division and 15 Indian non-governmental organisations, was attended by more than 1,000 people.

Liow said the allocation also enabled the people to receive treatment at the hospital wards at less than RM500 regardless of the duration of stay, while the poor were exempted from paying.

He said medical services in the country had improved a lot towards giving the best services to the people.

"If before the country's independence, the average life expectancy for males was 56 years and 58 for women, it has now gone up to 72 years for men and 77 for women, which shows that our health services have improved over the years."

Liow said the government brought health services to the people regardless of where they lived and among the initiatives was the 1Malaysia mobile clinic.

He said Malaysia had won praises from the World Health Organisation and other countries for being able to provide good medical services to its people.

"The government is committed to national development, including providing more and better health facilities for the people's well-being," he said.

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