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Malaysia third lowest in healthcare

MALAYSIA is the third lowest spender among Asean countries when it comes to public healthcare, the Dewan Negara was told, yesterday, as it spends 4.1 per cent of its total annual expenditure on the sector, a figure that puts the country above Myanmar and Laos only.

Deputy Health Minister Datuk Rosnah Abdul Rashid

Shirlin said this when answering a query on Malaysia's comparative performance when it comes to the public healthcare sector by Chew Lee Giok.

Thailand spends the largest amount of its total annual expenditure on public healthcare, at 14 per cent, while Singapore spends 7.8

per cent of its total expenditure on it.

The 4.1 per cent, according to Rosnah, amounts to RM2.8 billion, with RM 1.7 billion from that sum allocated specifically for medicines.

Rosnah also stressed that the country has now met the Millenium Development

Goal (MDG) in several areas of the health sector.

“Our rate for malaria cases is now only 18.6 cases in every 100,000 citizens. Similarly, our HIV rates are expected to go down to 11 cases in every 100,000 citizens by the year 2015, which will also meet the MDG,” she said.