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Decline in HIV cases nationwide

MALACCA: To further reduce the number of HIV/AIDS cases nationwide, the Health Ministry has set a new target of 11 infections per 100,000 patients.

Deputy Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Hilmi Yahaya is confident the new target could be achieved due to the decline in the number of HIV cases since 2003.

“Last year, the number of new HIV cases reported was 3,438, which is equivalent to a ratio of 11.7 cases to 100,000 people.

“This is proof that we are getting closer to the target.”

Hilmi said the declining number of HIV

cases was due to the cumulative efforts undertaken by the government, non-governmental organisations and individuals.

“However, this is not the time to rest on our laurels. It is important that ongoing efforts be carried out from time to time to ensure that the numbers stay minimal and in a declining trend,” he said at the launch of the “Melaka Historic City — Getting to Zero Project”, held in conjunction with the 21st Asean Task Force on AIDS meeting here yesterday.

He warned that the figures could go up if the authorities or members of the public let down their guard.