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THE Employees Provident Fund (EPF) has widened the list of critical diseases under the Health Withdrawal programme from 39 to 55 diseases effective yesterday. Its chief executive officer Tan Sri Azlan Zainol said the EPF took the initiative to widen the list of critical diseases to ease the financial burden of subscribers in getting immediate treatment. "The health withdrawal benefits reviewed covered 16 additional diseases including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung fibrosis, chronic intestinal cancer, systemic sclerosis with pulmonary hypertension, AIDS and three types of mental disorders which could be dangerous to the patient if untreated," he said in a statement yesterday. Azlan said withdrawals for the purchase of health aid were now allowed to treat patients suffering from cancer, cardiovascular diseases, respiratory system, nervous system, musculoskeletal system and ear problems. — *Bernama*