PETALING JAYA: The Malaysian Medical Association has welcomed the increase of more than 20% in allocation for health services next year as it would enable the construction of more hospitals and clinics.

The association’s president, Datuk Dr N. Athimulam, said the RM7.6bil allocation would go a long way to achieve the health objective and standards of the nation’s healthcare policy.

"The association hopes the Health Ministry would look after the welfare of government doctors and para-medical staff so that they will continue to serve with dedication," he said.

Dr Athimulam said the grant for the non-governmental organisations like Hospice and the National Kidney Foundation would encourage them to offer their much-needed services to the needy.

Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng said the allocation would result in better quality services through the upgrading of hospitals and recruitment of overseas and local medical staff.

"This increase of 23% is the highest allocation the ministry has received in its history.

"This is by far the best Budget for the medical sector," he said.