

PM NEEDS LONG REST: FONSEKA

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has been advised to rest completely and limit the number of visitors coming to see him.

He is expected to resume work in six weeks.

General Hospital director Datuk Dr C. Fonseka told reporters today that the Prime Minister underwent a few routine tests yesterday and this morning and the doctors were "satisfied with the state of his progress and the condition of his heart."

"The Prime Minister will be recuperating at home but has been advised to limit the number of visitors," he added.

Dr Fonseka said Dr Mahathir's condition would be assessed again in six weeks "after which he will be able to resume his functions."

The Prime Minister, who was admitted on Jan 18 after complaining of chest

pains, was discharged this morning after being hospitalised for 18 days.

He was operated on by a team of specialists made up of cardiac surgeon Dr Yahya Tun Awang and Dr Rozali Wathooth and chief anaesthetist Datuk Dr S. Radha Krishna.

The Prime Minister left the ward at 11am, accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah, his brother-in-law former Menteri Besar Datuk Haji Ahmad Razali Mohamed Ali and Health Minister Datuk Chang Siang Sun.

Among others present were Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk S. Subramaniam and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Sallehudin Mohamed.

Before Dr Mahathir walked out of the ward, the imam of the general hospital mosque, Encik Radzmi Osman, read the *doa selamat*

Dressed in a beige bush-jacket, Dr Mahathir looked cheerful and shook hands with nurses and other staff members, thanking them for their assistance during his stay.

A large crowd of hospital staff also awaited the Prime Minister at the lobby to bid him farewell. Dr Mahathir shook hands with them.

A banner, which read *Saudara Perdana Menteri, We Care For You*, was also put up by the staff at the lobby entrance.

Dr Mahathir, the first Prime Minister to undergo a coronary by-pass operation locally, walked to his car parked at the entrance of the lobby but before he got in, he stopped to wave and say goodbye to the crowd.

At Sri Perdana, his official residence, Dr Mahathir was greeted by family members.

Dr Fonseka also told re-

porters that the Prime Minister had been a model patient and had not "made any excessive demands."

"We are very proud that he had chosen this hospital to do the coronary by-pass.

"This shows his trust in our doctors," said Dr Fonseka. He added he had confidence that more VIPs would choose to undergo operations at the hospital.

Dr Yahya later said that the test results conducted yesterday and this morning were "encouraging."

"Based on the findings of the tests, we decided that the Prime Minister can go home for a complete rest.

"However, he has to undergo regular check-ups which are routine for patients who have undergone a coronary by-pass.

"In six weeks, we will give the Prime Minister a full check-up and he should be able to return to work after that," Dr Yahya added.