

Mahathir's health stable, says Chan

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DATUK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's condition is stable and satisfactory, Health Minister Datuk Chan Siang Sun said.

Datuk Chan told Mr P. Pato (DAP Ipoh) that his Ministry had kept the public informed from time to time about the Prime Minister's health.

He said Dr Mahathir was admitted to the Kuala Lumpur General Hospital on Jan 18 after experiencing chest pains.

At first, the doctors had intended to treat the Prime Minister "conservatively," he said.

Datuk Chan explained that under this plan, Dr Mahathir would have been allowed to go home with instructions to return after two weeks to undergo a "coronary angiogram" test to determine the extent of his heart problem and the required treatment.

However, he added, after consultations with a foreign cardiologist, the decision was taken on Jan 1 to conduct the angiogram test earlier.

The decision for the Prime Minister to undergo a coronary bypass operation was taken on Jan 22 following the angiogram test.

Dr Mahathir had a successful operation on Jan 24.

"The decision to go for immediate surgery was made because the Prime Minister was ready, and there was no reason for any delay," he added.