

Dr M: No need to worry about post-Deng era

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said that Malaysia is not worried about the post-Deng Xiaoping period.

"China has already set its course and it is unlikely to change that. The country has already decided on its policy," he said when asked to comment on the reported ill-health of the Chinese supreme.

It was reported recently that Deng's daughter Deng Rong had admitted that her 90-year-old father's was frail and his health was steadily deteriorating.

Meanwhile, the director of Shanghai Economic Zone, Wang Dao Han, who is here to attend the First Malaysia-China Forum *Malaysia and China in 21st Century Prosperity Through Cooperation*, said Deng was in good health.

He, however, admitted that as Deng was an old man, he naturally suffered from illnesses of his age.

"The people in China are praying for him to have a long life," he said when replying a reporter's question on Deng's health, which has received wide coverage in recent weeks.