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British Press query two-month leave

DATUK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's two-month leave also figured at a Press conference the Prime Minister held on Tuesday in London.

He was asked by a member of the British Press whether his leave was in anticipation of him handing over the reins to his successor.

Dr Mahathir replied that he was not making preparations to hand over power to his deputy, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, but that Anwar was now functioning as Acting Prime Minister because he (Dr Mahathir) was on long leave.

He said: "At some point in time, I'll have to pass the job to others. At some stage, I'll have to stop being Prime Minister, either by natural causes or voluntarily."

To chuckles from the Press, Dr Mahathir quipped: "No one can be Prime Minister after he has died."

Dr Mahathir's health also appeared to have triggered the interest of another journalist. He was asked whether he was as healthy as made out to be and whether his long vacation had anything to do with his health.

The Prime Minister replied: "Well, you're taking my pictures now... you can see if I'm healthy or not."

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