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Mahathir-Parliament

DR MAHATHIR GETS THUMPING RECEPTION AT PARLIAMENT

KUALA LUMPUR, April 22 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was given a rousing reception by some 125 Barisan Nasional (BN) Members of Parliament when he made his appearance in the Dewan Rakyat today.

As the Prime Minister entered the House at 10.37am, the BN MPs thumped the tables as a sign of welcome for him.

Dr Mahathir made his entry while Deputy Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Loke Yuen Yow was answering a supplementary question from Chia Kwang Chye (BN-Bukit Bendera).

Dr Mahathir then tabled the Mid-Term Review of the Seventh Malaysia Plan at 11am, after the question-and-answer session.

This is the Prime Minister's first appearance in the Dewan Rakyat after his discharge from the National Heart Institute where he was treated for a lung infection.

Dr Mahathir, who was advised by doctors to rest at home after his discharge, returned to work on Monday.

Dr Mahathir delivered the review in 65 minutes, occasionally taking sips of water to soothe his throat.

"Being able to speak for one hour and five minutes is a good indicator. And I spoke with the same voice...it's not a soft voice, it's the same old voice," Dr Mahathir said when fielding questions from reporters about his health later.

The prime minister said he was happy to have delivered the mid-term review which was "important" to him and the government.

He said he would have coughs off and on which could sometimes turn severe.

"If I can put up with it, I will," he added.

Dr Mahathir was admitted into the National Heart Institute on April 2 upon his return from performing the haj, and was discharged on April 12.

-- BERNAMA

MAM SHO YBY