

12 APR 1999

Mahathir-Discharge

DR MAHATHIR DISCHARGED FROM IJN

KUALA LUMPUR, April 12 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was discharged from the National Heart Institute (IJN) this afternoon after undergoing treatment for 11 days for lung infection.

He was however advised by his doctors at the IJN to rest at home before starting work.

Dr Mahathir was also advised not to receive visitors to ensure that he gets complete rest.

The prime minister, who was admitted to the IJN on April 2 on his return from the haj, left the hospital at 4pm.

Just before his discharge, Dr Mahathir was visited by the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar.

Dr Mahathir, accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, appeared cheerful when he met Tuanku Ja'afar in his ante-room at the hospital.

Tuanku Ja'afar was at the hospital for about about 30 minutes.

In a brief interview with Bernama and RTM before leaving the hospital, Dr Mahathir said that he had recovered significantly but had to have complete rest at home to recover fully.

"I am not allowed to receive visitors until I have recovered fully," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that he was free from fever for the last three days and was undergoing physiotherapy.

He expected to be able to resume his duties soon.

"I would like to thank the doctors and staff of the IJN who have treated me so well," he said.

He said that the doctors and staff had managed to overcome a difficult viral infection.

Dr Mahathir also expressed his appreciation and gratitude to well-wishers in the country and abroad for their get-well messages.

Before leaving the IJN, Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah shook hands with all the doctors and staff who attended to the prime minister during his 11-day stay at the hospital.

He also shook hands with patients and their families who lined up outside the ward on the fifth floor of the IJN to say good-bye to him and members of the public at the lobby on the ground floor who thronged him while he was heading towards his car.

Meanwhile, Dr Mahathir's trips to the various states scheduled for this month have been postponed.

A statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office said that the postponements would result in the rescheduling of his programme of visits to the states.

-- BERNAMA

ZS RM