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PM thanks well-wishers for care, concern

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali yesterday thanked well-wishers who had sent flowers and those who were concerned with his health.

A statement issued by the Prime Minister's Department also mentioned those who had sent cards and made telephone calls to find out about Dr Mahathir's condition following his admission to the Institut Jantung Negara on Friday for a lung infection.

It said the Prime Minister's health was improving and the treatment given by doctors at the IJN showed positive and encouraging signs.

However, the doctors had advised him to take a complete rest.

Dr Mahathir was touched with the concern expressed by the people who had prayed for his quick recovery, the statement said, adding that he apologised for not being able to receive any visitors since he had been told to rest. He was admitted on Friday for bronchitis upon his return from Mecca on Wednesday.

Meanwhile his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the Prime Minister's health has improved and he is expected to be back at work soon.

"The Prime Minister is getting better and I was informed by his secretary (today) that he (Dr Mahathir) is moving around in the (hospital) room," he told reporters at a news conference after winding up the debate on the White Paper on "Status of the Malaysian Economy" at the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

"Yesterday (Tuesday), I visited him during lunch time and informed him on the duties that I carried out for him," he said.

Abdullah said the Prime Minister's doctor told him that Dr Mahathir's condition is stable. He, however, did not ask the Prime Minister when he (Dr Mahathir) would be discharged.

Meanwhile, Bernama quoting a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office yesterday, said the health condition of Dr Mahathir is improving.

"Treatment given to him by doctors at the Institut Jantung Negara (IJN) has shown positive and encouraging results," statement issued in Kuala Lumpur at 4pm said.

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