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King returns, admitted for further treatment

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah returned home today from Singapore after two months of treatment there and has been admitted to the Gleneagles Intan Medical Centre in Jalan Ampang for further treatment.

A statement from Istana Negara said the King is now in stable condition and is undergoing treatment at the medical centre.

"The people are advised not to worry about the King's health," added the statement which was issued about 3pm.

The King, who was scheduled to return home on Nov 24 following surgery in Singapore, arrived at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang at 6.15am.

He was received by his son, the Regent of Selangor Tengku Idris Shah, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Samsuddin Osman, members of the royal family and palace officials.

Dr Mahathir later visited the King for about 45 minutes at the medical centre in Jalan Ampang.

He arrived at 11.25am accompanied by his wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and was met by the hospital's chief executive officer, Stuart J.V. Pack.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi arrived 20 minutes later accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Endon Mahmood.

Before leaving, Dr Mahathir was seen talking to Datuk Dr Richard Ng, a consultant cardiologist from Mount Elizabeth Hospital, Singapore, who accompanied the King from the island republic where the King had been warded at the hospital's intensive cardiac care unit since Sept 19 after undergoing a two-hour surgery to have a pacemaker implanted.

Meanwhile, an Istana Negara spokesman, when contacted, said among those who accompanied the King were Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Siti Aishah, top palace officials, his personal physician, medical officers from Gleneagles, the National Heart Institute and the Health Ministry here.

The spokesman said the King was in high spirits: "The fact that he was able to travel is an indication of his improved health."

Following his surgery, special equipment has been made available at the National Heart Institute which has been directed to be on stand-by for the King.

Others who visited the King today were Deputy Health Minister Datuk Datuk Seri Suleiman Mohamad, Selangor Deputy Menteri Besar Datuk Zainal Abidin, Selangor State Secretary Datuk Abdul Aziz Mohd Yusuf, director-general of the Anti-Corruption Agency Datuk Zulkifli Mat Nor and Home Ministry secretary-general Datuk Aseh Che Mat. Abdullah, when asked later after launching the Bazaar Ramadan at Jalan Masjid India, refused to comment on the visit.

"I'm not supposed to make a statement. But I did go to the hospital and I did see him," he said.

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