

Donations 'should be managed'

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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is in favour of the creation of a special fund to manage money donated by Malaysians to those in need of medical treatment.

He said such a fund would ensure donors' money was spent for the purpose it was intended.

"We will use what is necessary from the fund. The balance we can give to others (who need money for medical treatment)," he said after visiting former conjoined twins Azama and Azami Kamarulzaman at the Kuala Lumpur Hospital yesterday.

Dr Mahathir, who is also

Finance Minister, said the Government wanted to look after the interest of donors.

"We want to ensure the money collected is used for the purpose (it was raised for). Sometimes, we find a lot of people seeking donations but we don't know how the money is spent. We fear the money will not reach its intended target," he added.

He said the Government did not want to prevent people from seeking donations.

"But what is wrong with (having) some regulations? Otherwise, anyone can ask for donations," he added.

Dr Mahathir also said the younger generation should

take care of the elderly instead of "dumping" them at hospitals.

"There is not enough space at hospitals because chronic illnesses take a long time to heal. We want the space for others.

"If everyone dumps his or her grandparents at hospitals, it will be like an old folks home," he said.

Commenting on the Kamarulzaman twins, Dr Mahathir said their condition was stable. They had undergone an operation to separate them on Nov 23.

"The elder one (Azama) is more active and her eyes are open wide," he said.