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New ways to treat liver cancer being developed

PETALING JAYA, Wed. - Malaysia is experimenting with new techniques to help people suffering from primary and secondary liver cancer, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight.

Saying although he would not be making any announcement on the matter, the Prime Minister said he believed certain quarters in this country were trying the new techniques.

"Hopefully, if these new techniques work, there will be hope for those suffering from primary or secondary liver cancer.

"We are making progress. In the medical field, there have been great advancement in terms of surgery and medicine. So, if people do get sick, they have better hope now."

For example, he said, hepatitis B, if left to develop, could lead to cancer in later years.

Dr Mahathir was speaking at Malaysian Liver Foundation's Charity Night 2003, themed "A Tribute to the Patron and Prime Minister".

Dr Mahathir, who is the MLF patron, was accompanied by Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and several ministers, including Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Ming.

The event was hosted by Sunway Group Bhd chairman Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah.

Dr Mahathir told the 1,500 guests that medicine today could be very costly and sick people could be forgotten unless the public lend a hand.

"However, I am glad to say in Malaysia we never fail to get a lot of donors and supporters. Malaysians are very generous."

On a lighter note, Dr Mahathir said: "I am a disqualified doctor (today). I used to be qualified, but after stopping for a good many years, I am not allowed to practise. But, I am able to bluff my way through when I talk about medicine," he said in jest, amid laughter from the audience.

At the event, Dr Mahathir received contributions of RM250,000 from Sunway Group, RM100,000 from Yayasan Emkay and RM100,000 from Leading Feature Sdn Bhd and Kumpulan Liziz Sdn Bhd for MLF.