

Dr M to remain hospitalised until fully recovered
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Outspoken former Malaysian prime minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad will remain hospitalised until he has fully recovered after suffering a heart attack, one of his sons said today.

Mokhzani Mahathir said although his 81-year-old father was steadily improving and responding well to treatment, doctors were not recommending he leave the National Heart Institute (IJN) in Kuala Lumpur.

"They have not said that they will discharge him any time soon and we are not pushing for it," Mokhzani told AFP.

"We want him to fully recover with a clean bill of health before he is discharged," he said.

Mahathir was transferred out of the cardiac care unit to a regular ward over the weekend after doctors said they were happy with his progress and is undergoing cardiac rehabilitation.

"He's fine and recovering very well. He seems cheerful and is eating well," Mokhzani said, adding that his father was now receiving friends and is also very "chatty."

Mahathir was admitted last Monday after suffering breathing difficulties from lung congestion caused by the heart attack.

Mahathir previously suffered a heart attack in 1989 and had bypass surgery. He also had a mild stroke in November last year, caused by a clot that restricted blood flow in one of his arteries.

Mahathir retired from office in 2003 after 22 years in power, handing over to Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, whom he has since accused of nepotism and corruption.

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