

Dr M opts to watch live telecast

KUALA LUMPUR: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, unable to attend the opening of the Umno general assembly, plans to follow the proceedings via the live telecast on television.

His son, Datuk Mukhriz, said the former prime minister was disappointed that he could not attend the event as doctors advised him not to exert himself after the mild heart attack on Thursday.

Recuperating at the National Heart Institute, Dr Mahathir is expected to be discharged on Thursday.

"Our family is holding a *doa selamat* at the Grand Seasons Hotel on Tuesday at

6.30pm. This is an opportunity for Umno delegates and friends to pray for his speedy recovery."

He said doctors were observing Dr Mahathir closely, and he was progressing well.

"If he goes to the Umno assembly, the delegates may get emotional. At this time, we don't need that type of emotions projected at him."

Mukhriz said doctors planned to start his father on an exercise regime, adding: "I saw his driver bringing his sneakers."

Last December, Dr Mahathir underwent some tests, including an angiogram, that revealed three blockages.

"A specialist from Mayo Clinic was here to provide advice. His advice was to do nothing — no invasive proce-

dures due to his age.

"He has been advised to maintain a proper diet and have a more relaxed lifestyle.

"Soon he will continue with his activities as he is the type who cannot stop working. If his mind is not active, he will deteriorate."

Mukhriz said his father would continue to speak his mind on issues that affected the country and people.

"What is important now is whether what he has said, what he has done so far has touched any people at all. If it has, it is up to others to further the struggle on his behalf, if they feel it is important enough," he said.