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Dr M's bypass surgery a success

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KUALA LUMPUR: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad successfully underwent his second coronary bypass at the National Heart Institute (IJN) yesterday.

The former prime minister was taken into the operation theatre complex at 8.45am where immediate family members were allowed to see him before he was wheeled into the operating theatre.

The operation began at 9.40am and was completed at 3.05pm. Dr Mahathir was operated on by a six-member team of surgeons led by Tan Sri Dr Yahya Awang.

The team also comprised Mayo Clinic cardiothoracic surgery chief Prof Dr Hartzell Schaff, Datuk Dr Rozali Wathooth, Datuk Dr Azhari Yakub, Datuk Dr Venugopal Balchand and Dr Mohamed Ezani Mohd Taib.

He was transferred to the

Intensive Care Unit at 3.30pm, where his condition will be observed over the next few days.

IJN said in a statement that doctors were happy that the procedure had progressed as anticipated and that Dr Mahathir's vital signs were stable.

The hospital said he would be under close observation by a team of doctors and nurses during the 48-hour period after the operation — a crucial time in the post-operative period.

When met at the hospital, Dr Mahathir's daughter Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir said the family dealt with the operation much better than they did his first bypass in 1989.

"We were not so tense this time. We were better prepared and knew he was in capable hands.

"When he was in the operating theatre, we spent the time talking, eating and reading magazines," she said.

Marina said the family shed

tears of relief when the operation was over. Her mother, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, was in good spirits after the successful operation.

"She is tired but very happy. We want to thank everybody, everywhere, Malaysians of all races and religions, who sent wonderful messages, SMSes and e-mails to us.

"We are sure that was what helped him, and us, through this. God listened to everyone and we are very grateful for all that," said Marina, with tears welling up in her eyes.

While the average Malaysian was not able to show up in person to offer their support to Dr Mahathir, many dignitaries were at the IJN.

The VIPs included Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, his wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor and Toh Puan Ena Ling.

Dr Mahathir, 81, was admitted to the IJN on Sunday for the elective procedure.



Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir during an impromptu press conference at the IJN lobby yesterday after her father, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, successfully underwent a coronary bypass surgery.