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NEW STRAITS TIMES

DATE: 25 / 09 / 2007

Dr M 'stable and conscious'

NST- 25/9/2007

KUALA LUMPUR: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad is in stable condition at the National Heart Institute (IJN).

According to a statement from IJN, Dr Mahathir was stable and conscious.

"The team of doctors is happy with his current progress. Tun is able to receive visits from his immediate family members," it said.

His son Datuk Mokhzani said: "There were rumours circulating today on the condition of my father. I want to say he is in stable condition

and conscious.

"He is still in the ICU and is being closely monitored by the doctors."

His daughter, Datin Paduka Marina, said at IJN: "The indicators are good. The doctors are happy."

It's learnt that the rumours started after cardiothoracic surgeons, including some of those who operated on Dr Mahathir, were seen going in and out of the ICU since Sunday night.

Sources said the surgeons were kept busy when the condition of two heart patients in the ICU turned

critical. The two died despite all attempts by the team to save them.

Dr Mahathir, 81, who underwent a three-hour operation on Saturday to remove damaged tissue in a wound brought on by an infection, is still on a respirator and under medication.

IJN said being on a respirator after the operation and the 72-hour close watch on him were normal precautions for those in Dr Mahathir's age bracket. This is particularly so as he had had two major surgeries in three weeks.