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Mahathir stable, still warded in ICU

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KUALA LUMPUR: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad is in stable condition and is still warded at the intensive care unit of the National Heart Institute (IJN) here, his special officer, Sufi Yusoff, said.

As such, he urged the people not to listen to or spread rumours about the 81-year-old former prime minister's health condition.

"Rather than listening to rumours, it's better to pray for his well-being," he said yesterday.

"The IJN is responsible and will not withhold any information with regards to Tun's health ...

Please do not spread rumours," he said.

Earlier, when met by reporters at the IJN, Dr Mahathir's daughter, Datin Paduka Marina, said her father would have rehabilitative treatment again after undergoing a debridement on Saturday owing to a wound infection.

She said Dr Mahathir was in stable condition after the three-hour operation and had been put on routine post-surgery support.

Debridement is the surgical excision of dead, devitalised or contaminated tissue and removal of foreign matter from a wound. It is

said to increase the rate of wound healing.

"*Alhamdulillah*, he (Dr Mahathir) is stable and his condition is heartening. He is conscious, and able to hear and respond well.

"However, he has to undergo rehabilitative treatment again, similar to what he had been through after the earlier (coronary bypass) surgery (on Sept 4)," she said.

Dr Mahathir underwent his first coronary bypass surgery, at the Kuala Lumpur Hospital, on Jan 24, 1989 following a heart attack. —
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SUFI YUSOFF, DR M'S SPECIAL OFFICER