

THE STAR

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# Dr Mahathir starts on physiotherapy exercises

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has started doing physiotherapy exercises, three days after his second surgical procedure for wound debridement.

His daughter, Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir said in her blog <http://www.rantings-bymm.blogspot.com/> that he was being given deep breathing and muscle toning exercises.

"Not exactly lifting weights but the post-op equivalent of it," she wrote.

"So, it is all good. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise."

Dr Mahathir underwent his second coronary bypass surgery three weeks ago at the National Heart Institute (IJN) and the second procedure was on Saturday night for wound infection.

She added that her mother Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali said Dr Mahathir's general condition was better.

"He is alert and co-operative. That means he is not giving the doctors a hard time," Marina said.

"His heart is ticking away strongly as is every organ in that wonderful ecosystem we call the body. Still trying to build energy through nutrients."

She wrote Dr Siti Hasmah said another positive sign was that Dr Mahathir was already displaying signs of impatience.

"Good old cranky Dad!" she added. When contacted, Marina said her father

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was being fed high calorie nutrients and would slowly be "weaned off" the ventilator, which is necessary for patients who have undergone major surgery.

Marina said her father was able to breathe by himself but not enough to fully oxygenate his lungs which was why he was on a ventilator.

A statement from IJN said Dr Mahathir was conscious and doctors are gradually easing on his support medication.

It added that Dr Mahathir continued to be in stable condition.

"IJN doctors are happy that his vital parameters continue to be stable," the statement said.

Visitors are still confined to family members only.

Marina has asked Malaysians to continue praying for him.

Meanwhile, Perlis Mufti Dr Mohd Asri Zainul Abidin wants all mosques in the state to recite a special supplication for Dr Mahathir's health, during each of the five daily prayers.

In a statement issued by his office on Tuesday, he also urged all imams to recite the supplication, which is known as *Qunut Nazilah* and is recited for a person's well being, for at least a week during the congregational prayers.

Dr Mohd Asri said the supplication should "ask for Tun to be given healing and health."