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Dr M 'perks up' during post-surgical observation

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KUALA LUMPUR: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad regained consciousness yesterday afternoon following his bypass surgery on Tuesday and remains in stable condition.

His son, Datuk Mokhzani Mahathir, said this to reporters at about 3.30pm at the National Heart Institute (IJN) yesterday.

In a statement earlier, IJN said the doctors were happy with Mahathir's post-bypass surgery progress.

"All his vital parameters, thus far, are also stable as anticipated," it said.

However, IJN said, Mahathir was still within the crucial observation period and will continue to be warded in the Intensive Care Unit.

Mokhzani said his father was expected to remain in ICU until the end of the week.

He said Mahathir was looking strong and recovering well and his mother, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah, was beside him when he woke up at about 3pm.

"He spoke to my mother and asked something funny... I am sorry I can't tell you what exactly it was and after that he spoke to us despite having the oxygen mask on him," he said.

Mokhzani said his father also spoke to

the chief surgeon Tan Sri Dr Yahya Awang and asked what happened during the surgery.

"He also thanked all the doctors and nurses involved during the surgery individually for their good work," he said when met at the lobby of IJN.

Earlier, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and his wife Datin Seri Jeanne Abdullah arrived at IJN at 5.10pm and left at 5.45pm.

They could not visit Mahathir as he was still in ICU but met Siti Hasmah and were briefed by Yahya and his panel of doctors on the former prime minister's condition.

"The prime minister was happy with my father's latest developments and conveyed regards from the members of the cabinet," Mokhzani said.

The former premier was admitted to IJN on Sunday, and underwent a bypass surgery from 9.40am to 3.05pm on Tuesday.

Although he was not allowed to receive visitors, several people dropped by the IJN to see his family members.

These included Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Azmi Khalid, Science, Technology and Innovations Minister Datuk Seri Dr Jamaluddin Jarjis and Deputy Minister of Entrepreneur and Cooperative Development Datuk Khamsiyah Yeop.