

Mahathir

admitted

to IJN

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KUALA LUMPUR: Former prime minister Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad was admitted to the National Heart Institute's (IJN) coronary care unit yesterday for observation.

According to an IJN statement, his condition is stable with no breathing difficulties. It said the elder statesman had a light late lunch of porridge at 3pm.

A medical team has advised that visits should be limited to family members.

Mahathir was flown out of Langkawi in a private jet and ferried to IJN in an ambulance from Subang airport.

Among the first to visit him was Tan Sri Ananda Krishnan, followed by Parliamentary Opposition Leader Lim Kit Siang and Tan Seng Giaw.

Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir said his father is in good condition and even joked that the oxygen mask given to him was too small for his big nose.

Mukhriz and sister Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir thanked everyone for the SMSes, e-mails and special prayers they held for their father.

Both appealed to the media and the people to give some time and privacy for their father to rest and recover.

Asked how long Mahathir is expected to remain in hospital, Mukhriz said it depends on the advice of the doctors.

Datuk Mokhzani Mahathir

said his father might be discharged in a few days as his condition is stable.

"When exactly will depend on the doctors treating him. He spoke to us and asked for food because he was hungry," he said.

Mahathir was admitted to Langkawi Hospital on Monday after complaining of breathing difficulties.

His press officer, Sufi Yusoff, said the former premier had responded positively to the treatment provided by doctors from IJN and the Langkawi and Alor Star hospitals.

"The doctors were satisfied with his positive response and as such, he could be transferred to IJN," Bernama quoted him as saying.

Mahathir arrived at IJN accompanied by his wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, and Mukhriz.

A minor scuffle took place when some security personnel prevented media photographers from taking pictures of him.

Later, Mokhzani apologised on behalf of his family to the media for the rough treatment.

In Langkawi, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi expressed the hope Mahathir will make a full recovery.

He said he was unsure of the actual status of Mahathir's condition, citing his hectic schedule on the island.

"But I hope that he'll fully recover," he told reporters after talks with his Singaporean counterpart, Lee Hsien Loong.