

NEW STRAITS TIMES

DATE: 9/10/2007

Dr M out of intensive care, able to walk unaided

NST- 9/10/2007

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KUALA LUMPUR: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was yesterday transferred to the Bunga Raya ward of the National Heart Institute (IJN). He had been re-admitted to the Intensive Care Unit 16 days ago after surgery to clean up an infection in the surgical wound from his coronary bypass on Sept 4.

The former prime minister has been able to walk unaided since Sunday, IJN said in a statement.

The hospital said Dr Mahathir's doctors were happy with his progress, and would continue with post-surgery rehabilitation, including chest and muscle strengthening exercises.

Datuk Mokhzani Mahathir said his father was happy to be out of the ICU.

"It is definitely a change of environment," he said after a two-hour visit with his father, adding that the Tun was eating well, which 'Insyah'Allah

(God willing), would help him improve.

"He looks much better but I don't think he'll be out of the hospital for Hari Raya Aidilfitri."

Visitors are still limited to immediate family members.

Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir said her father looked more cheerful and well, "probably happy to be out of ICU which was really good for him physically and psychologically".

Asked if he was chatty, she said, "no, but he is smiling".

"He needs lot of encouragement to speed up his recovery," she added.

Marina said Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, who has been with her husband at IJN since Sept 4, visited heart transplant girl Tee Hui Yi yesterday.

"Mum said she was awake, looking good and even holding two thumbs up in triumph. Her parents are by her side. And the Sarawakian lung recipient is also up on his bed and doing fine."



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad is happy to be out of the ICU and to have Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali by his side. — Picture courtesy of Rantingsbyymm.blogspot.com

MCA president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting and vice-presidents Datuk Seri Dr Fong Chan Onn and Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek also visited Dr Mahathir.

"Dr Mahathir is recovering well and Dr Siti Hasmah thanked

Malaysians for their prayers which have helped his speedy recovery," said Dr Chua, adding that she hoped the prayers would continue so he could recover fast and return home.