

NEW STRAITS TIMES

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Dr M taken off respirator

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KUALA LUMPUR: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad is off the respirator and is breathing on his own.

Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir said his heart was also doing well.

"It's normal to feel weak after having undergone two major surgeries. All my father needs is to eat well and regain his strength," she said.

She said although his condition was "up and down", he was making steady progress towards recovery from his second coronary bypass surgery performed on Sept 4 and the second surgical procedure last Saturday for

wound debridement.

For Dr Mahathir's age, Marina said: "I think he is dealing well with the post-operation. He is now on soft food."

Asked whether he gave her the wink that she was hoping for, Marina laughed and said: "I am happy that he's doing fine when I visited him in the morning."

On how Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali was, Marina said her mother was holding on fine and was focused on ensuring her father's recovery.

"She is the booster to his recovery," she said, adding that the grandchildren were missing their grandfather.

Meanwhile, the National Heart Institute said that Dr Mahathir was making significant progress four days after his second surgical procedure for wound debridement.

He has been breathing on his own since 2pm on Thursday, and doctors are now focusing on post-surgical rehabilitation.

This includes chest physiotherapy to optimise his respiratory functions, as well as arm and leg exercises to build muscle strength.

Dr Mahathir is still warded in the intensive care unit, and only family members are permitted to visit him.