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Dr M visits ailing Chong Eu

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GEORGE TOWN: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Berjaya Corporation Bhd chairman and chief executive Tan Sri Vincent Tan visited ailing former chief minister Tun Dr Lim Chong Eu, at the Penang Hospital last night.

Lim, 91, who led the state for 21 years from 1969, was admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) on Oct 27 after reportedly having by a stroke.

Mahathir and Tan spent more than half an hour inside the ICU with Lim's son Chien Aim. Also present was Mahathir's wife Tun Dr Siti Has mall Mohd Ali.

Calling Lim an "old friend", Mahathir said Lim had also visited

him some time back when he was sick.

Mahathir also took a few moments to reflect on Lim's tenure, saying he was a "very good chief minister" who maintained good relations with everyone.

He said that it was because of Lim, who was a Gerakan co-founder, that the party was brought in to join Barisan Nasional in 1973.

"He also influenced the parties in Sarawak to join BN," he added.

"He's been a good party member and a good chief minister. We hope and pray that he will recover."

Meanwhile, Chien Aim said doctors reported that Lim's vital signs had improved.

"They are just monitoring... At this stage we just hope for the best," he said, thanking the hospital's staff and well-wishers.



Mahathir (second from left) and Tan (left) are led by Penang Hospital director Raja Lope Ahmad Raja Ariffin (right) to visit Lim.

**MASRYCHEANI/
THESUN**