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Dr M in IJN for chest infection

KUALA LUMPUR: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was admitted to the National Heart Institute (IJN) yesterday for treatment of a chest infection.

His aide, Sufi Yusoff, in a statement said that Dr Mahathir was admitted to a normal ward about 6am after complaining of fever and cough for the last two days.

"Dr Mahathir is currently undergoing intravenous antibiotic treatment and intensive chest physiotherapy," he said.

Dr Mahathir, 85, who is president of Perdana Global Peace Foundation, is expected to remain at the institute for one week.

Sufi also said doctors had advised him against receiving any visitors, except for close family members.

Meanwhile, his son, Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir, said his father was in stable condition and had been advised to rest.

"There are no problems at all with his heart. Only a cough.

"Usually, when he has a cough, he needs adequate rest at IJN," he said.

Mukhriz who is deputy international trade and industry minister, when met at the IJN lobby after he had visited his father, said Dr Mahathir had to undergo physiotherapy as usual.

He had to take antibiotics and have adequate rest so as to recover fast, Mukhriz said.

He said that his outdoor activities had been curtailed in view of his present condition.

"My mother (Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd All) is with him.

"We do not encourage visits by friends for the moment so as to prevent any infection," he told reporters.

Last October, Dr Mahathir was admitted to a Melbourne hospital for a similar chest infection after cancelling a scheduled appearance at a seminar in the Australian city.

The country's longest-serving prime minister has undergone two heart bypass operations, in 1989 and 2007.