

PM: We will provide all possible assistance

IPOH, Sat. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the Government would provide every possible assistance in determining the cause of the Malaysia Airlines Fokker 50 crash in Tawau which killed 35 people.

"There are various possible causes of the incident and I believe some time must be given for a thorough investigation," he said when asked to comment on the crash after opening the MIC general assembly here today. Dr Mahathir expressed sympathy to relatives of the victims.

The accident occurred at 1.05pm when MAS Fokker 50 plane crashed onto a clus-

ter of squatter homes and burst into flames outside Tawau Airport. Eighteen people including two crew members survived with only minor injuries.

Dr Mahathir said MAS' accident record was very good and it was very unfortunate that this happened, the second involving the airline since 1977.

In 1977, a MAS Boeing 737 aircraft with 93 passengers and seven crew members blew up in mid-air over Tanjung Kupang in Johor.

Dr Mahathir said the aircraft was among the new fleet of 11 Fokker 50s acquired by MAS to replace the Fokker 27 aircraft which had been sold.