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Helicopter crash: `No reason for sabotage'

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he saw no reason why anyone would want to sabotage the helicopter which crashed on March 3, killing leading industrialist Tan Sri Yahaya Ahmad.

Asked by a foreign reporter if there was a possibility of sabotage, Dr Mahathir said: "I don't see why anyone would want to sabotage the aircraft. Why would anybody want to kill him?"

The Prime Minister was speaking to reporters after giving a briefing to Barisan Nasional leaders on the Multimedia Super Corridor and social problems among youth.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Economic Adviser to the Government Tun Daim Zainuddin, Barisan MPs and State assemblymen were also present at the Putra World Trade Centre for the briefing.

Dr Mahathir said the authorities would strive to establish the cause of the crash.

The Agusta 109E owned by Gadek Aviation in which Yahaya and his wife were travelling crashed at Kampung Atong, Jeransang, Kuala Lipis in Pahang, while en route to Kuala Terengganu to visit Yahaya's ailing mother.

Also killed was pilot Azlizan Abdul Manas.

Anwar, when asked to comment on the performance of the nine companies under the DRB-Hicom Group which opened lower on the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange yesterday, said the people should not make judgments based on a single day's trading activities.

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