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Improve maintenance of aircraft, RMAF told

KUANTAN, Tues. - The Royal Malaysian Air Force can further improve the maintenance schedule of its aircraft to save lives and prolong the lifespan of the equipment, Deputy Defence Minister Datuk Dr Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan said today.

The lack of maintenance and servicing had been cited as among the causes of crashes involving jet fighters and helicopters.

"Although the maintenance crew and pilots are following the (maintenance) schedule strictly, there is still room for improvement," he said.

He told this to reporters after opening a seminar for Pahang ex-servicemen.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad called on the local aviation fraternity to develop a "maintenance culture."

"If we do not know how to maintain and use aircraft well, we can get involved in fatal accidents," he told reporters after flagging off the first Great Malaysia Air Rally in Kuala Lumpur.

He added the reminder was important to fliers and maintenance crew in the RMAF or those responsible for commercial and general aviation aircraft.

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