

11 MAR 1997

THOROUGH INVESTIGATION INTO HELI CRASH-- DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, March 11 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today there will be a thorough investigation into the helicopter crash which killed leading industrialist Tan Sri Yahaya Ahmad on March 3.

He 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 while en route to Kuala Terengganu to visit Yahaya's ailing mother. Also killed was pilot Azlizan Abdul Manas.

Asked if there was a possibility of sabotage, Dr Mahathir said : "I wouldn'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 (BN) leaders on the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) and social problems among youth.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Economic Adviser to the Government Tun Daim Zainuddin, BN Members of Parliament and state assemblymen were also present at the Putra World Trade Centre for the briefing. -- BERNAMA

HS AFY AAM