

23 MAR 1997

THOROUGH PROBE NEEDED ON DOUBLE CRASH- DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, March 23 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today a thorough probe should be undertaken to determine the cause of the simultaneous crash of two Nuri helicopters of the Royal Malaysian Air Force in Sabah on Tuesday.

Once the cause was established then a decision could be made on the future of such helicopters in the force, the Prime Minister said.

There are at present 30 such helicopters in service with the RMAF.

Dr Mahathir was speaking to reporters at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang on his return from Saudi Arabia.

Eleven RMAF personnel were killed in the crash in Sipitang, Sabah.

The Prime Minister recalled that he too took a ride in the Nuri when he was in the National Park in Kuala Tahan, Pahang, recently and the flight went off well.

Dr Mahathir expressed his sorrow over the death of the 11 airmen and extended condolences to their families. -- BERNAMA

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