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Parliament-Jet

PRIME MINISTER USING JET ONLY FOR OFFICIAL PURPOSES

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 11 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is using the executive jet only in his capacity as Prime Minister and not as Umno President, the Dewan Rakyat was told today.

Deputy Defence Minister Datuk Mohd Shafie Apdal said Dr Mahathir used the jet in the course of discharging his official duties as Prime Minister.

"The Prime Minister is the head of government and had to implement policies and his presence is on official business to explain government policies," he said when replying to Lim Hock Seng (DAP-Bagan) during Question Time.

To a question from Datuk Dr Hassan Mohd Ali (PAS-Parit Buntar), Shafie said since being commissioned in December 1999, the jet had clocked 565.7 flight hours both in the country and overseas and on check flights.

The operational cost of the jet was RM5,720 an hour, he said.

The executive jet was operated by the Royal Malaysia Air Force and maintained and serviced by Airod Sdn Bhd, he said.

Shafie said up to Sept 30, the operational cost of the jet totalled RM4.8 million and maintenance costs amounted to RM5.3 million.

-- BERNAMA

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