

King, PM express sadness over helicopter tragedy

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KUALA LUMPUR: His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia has expressed his sadness and conveyed his condolences to families of the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) helicopter crash victims in Lumut yesterday.

In a post on his Facebook page, Sultan Ibrahim ordered the Armed Forces to conduct a thorough investigation into the incident.

"I and Raja Zarith are deeply saddened by the loss of our nation's heroes in this tragedy. *Al-Fatihah* and our heartfelt condolences over their departure.

"May they be placed among the

► Sultan Ibrahim orders Armed Forces to conduct thorough investigation into incident

believers and martyrs," His Majesty said.

RMN said all 10 personnel on board were killed after a maritime operations helicopter (HOM-AW139) and a Fennec helicopter collided and crashed at the Lumut base at 9.32am.

There were seven crew members on the HOM-AW139 and three on the Fennec helicopter.

It is learnt that the helicopters

were making a fly-past when rehearsing for a parade to be held in conjunction with the 90th RMN anniversary early next month.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the nation mourns the heart-wrenching tragedy involving the helicopters.

In a post on his Facebook page, he said the tragedy had deeply affected the Armed Forces family

and is a great loss for the country.

He also extended condolences to the families of those who perished and prayed for them to be given strength in facing the tragedy, Bernama reported.

"I have been informed that an immediate investigation will be conducted by the Defence Ministry, especially RMN, to determine the cause of the accident.

"Praying that the souls of all those who perished are showered with mercy and forgiven of all their sins. May God love them and grant them a special place and position by His side."