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## 'Copter in crash was wet-leased'

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### GROUND CREW MEMBER KILLED

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Bell 206L-4 Long Ranger helicopter, which crashed and killed a ground crew member in Bentong, Pahang, on Thursday, was wet-leased and fully operated by an Indonesian company, PT Zaveryna Utama.

MHS Aviation Bhd told the *New Straits Times* that it had leased the aircraft for Tenaga Nasional Bhd's (TNB) 500-kilovolt and 700-kilovolt cable installation project.

"The Bell 206L-4 Long Ranger helicopter (registration number PK-ZUV) involved in the incident was wet-leased by MHS Aviation Bhd.

"Under this arrangement, the aircraft is owned and fully operated by PT Zaveryna Utama, including flight operations, crew and maintenance.

"The flight was carried out by PT Zaveryna Utama's operational team, with Captain Kustiyadi as the pilot," it said.

A wet lease is an agreement where an airline or aviation company (the lessor) provides an aircraft along with its crew, maintenance and insurance to another company (the lessee) for a specified period.

In this arrangement, the aircraft is fully operated by the lessor, while the lessee typically manages scheduling, cargo or passenger arrangements.

MHS Aviation said its role was limited to project coordination and that it was fully cooperating with the ongoing investigation by authorities.

On whether the company would revise its standard operating procedure (SOP) for aerial work following the incident, MHS Aviation said safety remained its top priority, with regular reviews of protocols to ensure compliance with the highest aviation standards.

"Our SOP is reviewed and updated annually or whenever necessary, subject to approval by the Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia. We also benchmark our practices against global aviation safety standards."

It said that it would assess any necessary safety enhancement once findings are made available.

On Thursday, an Indonesian engineer was killed when the main rotor blade of a helicopter that landed on its side struck his head.

Finsen Reskey Sembiring was part of the ground crew for the light helicopter, which was being used for TNB's East Coast Rail Link work, when the incident occurred about 10.30am. The pilot escaped unhurt.

The helicopter was attempting to land for refuelling when it lost control and landed on its side, catching fire.

Pahang Fire and Rescue Department acting director Wan Ahmad Fadillah Wan Abdul Rahman said the engineer, who was on the ground, was then struck by the main rotor blade.

**Under this arrangement, the aircraft is owned and fully operated by PT Zaveryna Utama (Indonesian company)...**