

Malaysia to organise tripartite meeting on MH370 search
MalaysiaKini.com
May 13th, 2016

MH370 Malaysia will organise a tripartite meeting involving the country, China and Australia to chart the future of the search operation for the vanished Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370.

Transport Minister Liow Tiong Lai said the meeting would be around "June and July", before the end of the 120,000 sq km search area for the missing jetliner.

The search operation for Flight MH370 continues in the southern Indian Ocean and as of today, more than 105,000 sq km had been covered, he said.

"We are confident of finding the main wreckage (of the aircraft) and this is an important mission for us to continue looking for (Flight) MH370 because we need to find the answer (behind the disappearance)," Liow told the media after the seventh World Chinese Economic Summit's Lifetime Achievement Award Conferment ceremony in Putrajaya today.

Liow said the search teams would not shift the search area as, based on debris stumbled upon recently, it was confirmed that the search was going in the right direction.

Moreover, he noted, experts had narrowed down a 120,000 sq km area as the most probable area where the jetliner might have vanished.

"We still have time (to search), because it (the search) has only completed 105,000sq-km and we like to complete the 120,000 sq km search," the minister said.

Flight MH370, carrying 227 passengers and 12 crew, disappeared from the radar during a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on March 8, 2014.

'Awaiting report on Rayani Air capability'

On the Rayani Air issue, Liow said the ministry was still waiting for a report from the Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) on the airlines' capability to continue its operations.

"Rayani Air has supposedly come up with a turnaround plan, and the (DCA) director-general (Azharuddin Abdul Rahman) has promised me the report as soon as possible... within this week.

"Once I look at the report, I will decide whether to allow Rayani Air to continue with the Air Operator Certificate (AOC) licence," he added.

Liow said if the ministry was not satisfied with the report, Rayani Air's licence would be revoked.

The DCA had provisionally, suspended the syariah-compliant airline for three months, beginning April 11.

Following the suspension notice sent to the airline on April 11, the DCA will undertake a full administration and safety audit of Rayani Air's state of operations to assess its compliance with the AOC.

- *Bernama*

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