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PRIME NEWS

PM mourns loss of 239 lives on MH370

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GRIEVING: Malaysia, Australia and China to decide next course if plane not found by July

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AS the mystery of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 enters its third year, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak mourns the loss of the 239 lives who were on board.

On his blog, NajibRazak.com, Najib said the discovery of debris in the



French overseas territory of Reunion Island last July provided evidence that the flight had ended in the southern Indian Ocean.

"We know that neither the passage of time nor this evidence will comfort those whose grief cannot be assuaged," he wrote.

Najib said MH370's disappear-



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and parliamentarians observing a minute of silence to commemorate the second anniversary of the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 at Parliament yesterday. Pic by Yazit Razali

ance was without precedent and the search for it had been one of the most challenging events in aviation history.

He said despite the fact that the ocean was one of the world's most inhospitable terrain — with depths of up to 6km, underwater mountain ranges and having one of the world's fastest sea currents — the search team had been working tirelessly to find MH370's resting place.

"We are grateful for their efforts."

Najib said the search operation was expected to be completed later

this year and Malaysia remained hopeful that the missing plane would be found in the remaining area to be searched.

"If it is not (found), then Malaysia, Australia and China will hold a tripartite meeting to determine the way forward."

Flight MH370 left Kuala Lumpur at 12.41am on March 8, 2014, and went missing en route to Beijing two hours after take-off.

On July 29 last year, an aircraft wing part, a flaperon, was found on Reunion Island. The Australian

Joint Agency Coordination Centre confirmed that the flaperon belonged to MH370.

Last Thursday, the man who found the flaperon, Johnny Begue, found more mysterious debris — a square-shaped grey object with blue borders — near the spot where he had found the wing part.

Deputy Transport Minister Datuk Seri Abdul Aziz Kaprawi cautioned the public against jumping to conclusions, adding that investigators needed to verify whether this latest find was from MH370.