

Hisham : Airport security remains intact

Free Malaysia Today

10 March 2014

Oleh Ikhwan Zulkaflee

PETALING JAYA: Defence Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said that Malaysia has not tightened security measures at the KLIA airport following reports of two individuals having used stolen passports to board MH370.

“We are not taking it as a security threat for now,” Hishammuddin told a press conference today. He declined to comment on the nationalities of the two who were reported to look like Asians.

“That one you have to check with the Home Minister (Ahmad Zahid Hamidi), I’m the acting transport minister and defence minister,” he told the journalist who had posed the question.

The two individuals had used Italian and Austrian passports respectively to board the plane on March 8.

Yesterday Bernama reported that the Immigration Department, especially the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) branch officers were under internal probe for failing to detect the two individuals.

“I’m still puzzled how come (immigration officers) cannot think, an Italian and Austrian (passengers) but with Asian facial features,” Zahid was quoted as saying by Bernama.

The Home Minister also said that they will conduct an internal probe, particularly on the officers who were on duty at the KLIA Immigration counter on the night of flight MH370.

While pleading with the public not to spread rumours, saying the country had nothing to hide, Hishammuddin said that the search and rescue (SAR) mission was Malaysia’s main focus.

Meanwhile, Inspector General of Police, Khalid Abu Bakar told AFP today that authorities have identified one of the two men who boarded the flight using the stolen passports.

He said the man is a non-Malaysian and authorities were able to identify him using the airport video surveillance.

“That’s all we can reveal,” he told AFP. “We are still ascertaining whether they (the two suspects using stolen passports) came in legally or illegally.

Source: <http://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2014/03/10/hisham-airport-security-remains-intact/>