

## **Govt regrets ruckus involving grieving families**

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PETALING JAYA: The Malaysian government has expressed regret on the way it handled the chaotic situation involving family members of MH370 passengers at the media press conference yesterday.

“We regret the incident yesterday,” Acting Transport Minister Hishammuddin Hussein told the daily press conference today.

Yesterday, Hishammuddin had confirmed that the ruckus caused by the Chinese families would be investigated.

Families from China had carried protest banners into the media room where the daily press conference on the missing plane are held. They had also criticised the Malaysian government for its late response in dealing with the disappearance of the plane on March 8.

The protesters were then bundled into a room by the police. They were also heard screaming as they were dragged away.

Malaysia Airlines chief executive officer (CEO) Ahmad Jauhari Yahya said the situation could have been handled better.

“We regret what happened yesterday, in relation to the commotion in front of the press conference room and mishandling of the Chinese families there,” he told the packed press conference in Sama-Sama Hotel today.

### **High-level team**

Meanwhile, Hishammuddin said an envoy would be dispatched later today to China to brief the family members there.

“The high-level team I announced yesterday is leaving for Beijing this evening. I would also like to confirm that representatives from the Malaysian government spoke to the families who were present here yesterday,” he said.

He added that the Prime Minister’s special envoy to China and the Chinese ambassador to Malaysia would lead a briefing today for the Chinese families who are here in Kuala Lumpur.

“The representatives of the Department of Civil Aviation, the Armed Forces, the police, Foreign Affairs Ministry will also be at the briefing.

According to Hishammuddin, the government understands what the families badly want to know,

however, they simply could not provide the information.

“For families around the world, the one piece of information they want most is the information we just don’t have: the location of MH370,” he said.

The Defence Minister also said the new information received from Australia was a credible lead that they had so far, however, it needed to be corroborated.

“As of today we have a credible lead, as long as there is hope, we will continue. To be fair to the families, we must show that we would not give up hope,” he said.

When asked whether the satellite images received from Australia were the best lead the investigators found so far, Hishammuddin said all leads were considered to be at the same level of importance.

“All information must be corroborated because we do not want to give false hope to the families,” he said.

If the object found by Australian satellite were confirmed to be MH370, MAS would fly relatives of the passengers and crew to Perth.

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