

## **Search for MH370 to continue**

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**Oleh Anisah Shukry and Leven Woon**

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian government will not let-up its search for the runaway MH370 despite evidence that the jetliner crashed in the Southern Indian Ocean.

Tabling an emergency motion on MH370 at the Dewan Rakyat here today, the Prime Minister said Malaysia was still committed in looking for the plane which went missing on a seemingly routine flight from the Kuala Lumpur International Airport to Beijing, China on March 8.

Late last night, Najib announced that the plane, based on new satellite data, ended its flight in the Southern Indian Ocean indicating that 239 passengers and crew of the plane perished after the jet crashed into the wild Indian Ocean.

“Even if it takes a long time, we are very committed to continuing our SAR mission until we uncover the Black Box of flight MH370,” he said.

He told Parliament that the black box, which contained all recordings of flight data and voice control, would answer all the questions regarding the missing flight.

The country would begin officially mourning for the demise of 239 passengers on the vanished flight after the wreckage of the flight was found, Najib added.

The flight took off from the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in the early hours of March 8. It disappeared from the civilian flight radar an hour into the flight when the jetliner was flying above the South China Sea. The plane was spotted by military radar an hour later flying in the western side of peninsula Malaysia towards the Andaman Sea.

‘Pings’ from the aircraft was picked up by the Inmarsat satellite which confirmed that the plane flew for another five hours after it was lost on the military radar. The plane, investigators, reveal flew towards the Indian Ocean.

The latest data by Inmarsat yesterday revealed that the flight ended in the Southern Indian Ocean.

He said the National Fatwa Council would meet at 6pm today, to determine when final prayers for deceased Muslim passengers on board flight MH370 would take place.

“We will look for every object, debris and wreckage related to MH370 so that we can verify without any doubt that the plane disappeared in the Indian Ocean... we stand by the principle that whatever statement we make must be verified first,” Najib told the Dewan Rakyat.

The Prime Minister said he was aware that it was not easy for families of passengers to face this, and the government must satisfy their need for information as soon as possible.

“Our priority is to confirm that the incident occurred in the Southern Indian Ocean. All our focus

will be on that area,” he added.

Najib said he received a telephone call from Australian Prime Minister Tony Abott this morning, pledging the country’s cooperation in the search for the flight’s wreckage.

“We cannot deny that the area is very difficult and challenging. This means we will face extraordinary obstacles and challenges in our search for the flight’s wreckage,” he conceded.

Yesterday, Najib announced that MH370 flight – carrying 239 people on board – had “ended its flight” in the southern part of the Indian Ocean.

“Based on their new analysis, Inmarsat and the AAIB have concluded that MH370 flew along the southern corridor, and that its last position was in the middle of the Indian Ocean, west of Perth.

“This is a remote location, far from any possible landing sites. It is therefore with deep sadness and regret that I must inform you that, according to this new data, flight MH370 ended in the southern Indian Ocean,” said Najib, who did not take questions from the press.

In the last few days, the search and rescue team consisting of experts from the US, China and Australia have found debris floating on the Indian Ocean.

However, it is still not confirmed whether debris is part of MH370’s wreckage.

Previously Najib had announced that the jetliner’s communications system and transponder were deliberately turned off by someone in the cockpit.

Foreign intelligence agencies have conducted two rounds of checks on the passengers of the ill fated plane and found nothing suspicious.

### **Malaysia is united today**

Meanwhile Acting Transport Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said the missing MH370 prompted global superpowers to cast aside their differences and work collectively to look for the plane.

Malaysia should be credited for being able to coordinate the 26-nation search and rescue operations, he told the Dewan Rakyat today.

“It would impossible for China and United States to work together, share information and assets, and for them to deploy the most sophisticated ships in the world to the mission, if not because of MH370

“The world today is so divided, so full of hatred, but through the case of MH370, Malaysia can be referred to as an example in coordinating (the search and rescue mission),” he said in his winding up speech for the debate of MH370’s motion of condolence today.

The Semberong MP also said all Malaysians regardless of background have come together in a rare show of unity.

“Malaysians for long have been divided, but today we are united, regardless of skin colour,

religion or social status,” he said.

Hishammuddin also said the search and rescue operation has entered its third phase, which would focus on locating the plane’s wreckage and the black box.

He said the authorities were forced to abandon search mission today due to bad weather.

On the call for a parliamentary select committee to be setup on MH 370, he said he would direct the call to those who can make a decision.

“But I would like to inform the House that committees have been setup within Transport Ministry and Royal Malaysian Air Force (TUDM) to conduct internal auditing,” he said.

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