

MH370 re-routers vision 2020

Free Malaysia Today

28 March 2014

Oleh Hawkeye

GEORGE TOWN: A civil society activist believes that there are underground political elements conspiring to pit Malaysia against China over the ill-fated MH370 flight.

Penang Malay Congress' president Rahmad Isahak is of the view that there are local political elements out to make Malaysia look bad in the eyes of the world.

After Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak confirmed that MH370 flight 'ended' in a remote part of the vast Southern Indian Ocean, there was an unrelenting backlash towards Malaysia and her authorities.

"The issue started out as an air disaster and a mystery. Now, there are political elements making it more political than anything else. We must be cautious as there are some quarters exploiting this issue to the hilt," he said.

"Thus, the leakage of unsavoury information to the China and western media as well as wild speculations about the flight over the social media networks. We should not spread our own love for rumour mongering to the outside world. It can have dire consequences," he added.

Rahmad noted with displeasure about reports from China that there is a proposal to boycott Malaysian-made products and to urge Chinese tourists to refrain from visiting the country.

He was also responding to news reports that some Chinese families of the passengers are furious with the Malaysian government, the national airliner and the Armed Forces.

Refusing to divulge who he suspects is exploiting the issue, Rahmad nonetheless said the manner in which the Chinese are angry reveals that some 'groups' could have manipulated them.

"It is acceptable that some people are unhappy with how Malaysia initially responded as this incident was unprecedented but to accuse the Malaysian government of murder is uncalled for," he said.

According to Rahmad, until conclusive evidence is formed, nobody should be blamed over the incident.

"While the congress extends its deepest of condolences to the families, friends and associates of the 239 passengers and crew aboard MH370, there is of no need to unduly speculate until all facts are established," he said.

Hard lessons

In the meantime, Rahmad said there are initial lessons to be learnt from all of this. Firstly, Malaysia needs to be competent in all public levels, especially in the military and government-

linked companies (GLCs).

“We should do away with political appointees to GLCs. Competencies should be encouraged rather than dissuaded.”

Cronyism and nepotism should also be done away with as the country needs to move forward from the tragedy of MH370.

There is also a need for accountability to be upheld and the military needs to clarify why no fighter jets responded to the turn-back by MH370 across the peninsular.

Rahmad called on the government to improve on its crises management capabilities to reflect their aspiration to become a developed nation by 2020.

Copyright © 2013 – Free Malaysia Today

Source: <http://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2014/03/28/mh370-re-routes-vision-2020/>