

MCA to organise mass prayer for MH370
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PETALING JAYA: MCA will organise a mass prayer for MH370 at the San Choon Hall in Wisma MCA this Sunday (April 6) at 10am to pray for the crew, passengers and their family members of the missing Malaysia Airlines jetliner.

MCA secretary-general Ong Ka Chuan in a statement said the prayer session will be led by Buddhist organisations, which include the Buddhist Maha Vihara, Buddhist Missionary Society, Young Buddhist Association and Fo Guang Shan, as well as other religious bodies.

Ong said that MCA will collaborate with the Federation of Chinese Associations Malaysia (Hua Zhong) to invite and coordinate with the respective religious bodies to attend the prayer session.

“This event is to let the world know that we, Malaysians, care deeply about them (families of the crew and passengers of MH370).

“We also hope that this event will be able to counter some of the negative news reports as there are still many foreign media which blame Malaysians as neglecting the feelings of the next of kin,” he said.

Ong added that the party will also invite Chinese Ambassador to Malaysia Huang Huikang to attend the event.

The two-hour prayer session is open to the public and no registration is required. Participants are advised to take public transport to the venue due to the limited parking space.

On a related matter, MCA vice-president Chew Mei Fun who was appointed as special envoy to China to deal with family members of the MH370's Chinese passengers by the Cabinet on March 28, had met Chinese officials in China from March 31 to April 1.

She also attended a meeting of the MH370 family members committee with the Chinese state council deputy secretary-general Xiao Yaqing as well as a follow-up meeting with the Chinese Foreign Affairs Ministry's Consular Department director-general Huang Ping and deputy director-general Zhai Leiming.

“During the meeting with the family members committee, on behalf of the Malaysian government, I had extended our highest concern to the next of kin and that we share their pain and losses,” she said in a statement.

She said that both parties agreed that the MH370 incident was a challenge that Malaysia and China should face hand-in-hand.

“We need to strengthen the communication between the two nations to effectively handle the crisis,” she said.

Chew added that they had also agreed that other than strengthening the search and rescue

operations as well as investigation work, attention should also be given to the support provided to the next of kin.

“We held a sincere and indepth meeting on how to assist the next of kin. We have identified various forms of support to be rendered to the families and relatives which include daily counseling, medical services and legal consultation.

“After processing the outcome of the meetings, we will talk to the government to formulate a more comprehensive programme for the families and relatives to ensure that they are well taken care of,” she said.

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