

'MH370 is above politics'
Free Malaysia Today
5 April 2014
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PETALING JAYA: Acting Transport Minister Hishammuddin Hussein today, denying that the government was complicit in the missing MH370, said these allegations were “completely untrue”.

Stopping short of mentioning any particular individual, Hishammuddin who is also Umno vice president, said allegations, including “the extraordinary assertion that Malaysian authorities were somehow complicit in what happened to MH370” was baseless.

“I should like to state, for the record, that these allegations are completely untrue. As I have said before, the search for MH370 should be above politics,” said Hishammuddin, at his regular media conference on the missing MH370.

A few days ago Opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim had accused the government of hiding information on the missing jetliner, telling British newspaper Daily Telegraph that the country’s radar system would have detected any change of course.

The opposition leader said he was “baffled” why the sophisticated Marconi radar system that he authorised as finance minister in 1994 had failed to detect MH370’s deviation from its path.

“I believe the government knows more than us,” he said in the interview.

On a related matter, Hishammuddin said that no one on board the plane had been ‘cleared’ by the investigating team.

When asked why it has taken time for the investigating team to ‘clear’ the crew members, as opposed to the passengers who have been cleared, Hishammuddin said: “No one has been cleared. Investigations are still ongoing”.

This however goes against Inspector-General of Police Khalid Abu Bakar’s statement on April 2 that the police have cleared all passengers on board MH370 of hijacking, sabotage and psychological and personal problems.

Meanwhile, Hishammuddin stressed that the search for the missing plane “goes beyond dollars and cents”.

The Acting Transport Minister reiterated that the current focus was to find the missing plane, when asked how much Malaysian taxpayers’ monies have been spent in the search.

The Pentagon on Wednesday had said that the United States military has spent more than RM10 million on the search for the missing plane.

Hishammuddin also dismissed the notion that Malaysia should apologise for the incident.

“There’s no one solution to smooth anything, in smoothing diplomatic ties. Instead, it requires a

lot of soul searching, a lot of emotional support and sharing of information and data.

“What’s important is to remain focused in locating the missing plane. If this goes on any longer, we need every bit of strength to find the truth,” he said.

MH370 disappeared from the radar on March 8 while on its journey from KLIA to Beijing, carrying 239 passengers and crew members.

Investigators found that the plane’s communications and transponder were deliberately disabled, and the plane flying away from its original journey towards the Indian Ocean.

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