

Australia joins search for missing plane

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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak has confirmed that the Australian government will send two of its maritime surveillance aircrafts to help in the search for the missing MH370 Malaysia Airlines (MAS) flight.

He said he had received a phone call from the Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott on the matter.

“He called me to express the country’s sympathy over the tragedy. Taking into account of the good relations between the two countries, I have accepted Australia’s help.

“The aircrafts will leave in two hours’ time and will definitely help our efforts to find the lost plane,” he told reporters here after officiating the 2014 National Reconciliation Programme:

‘Love the Community’

He said the additional help was “definitely welcomed”.

The two aircrafts, namely the P-3C Orion, are maritime surveillance aircrafts equipped with radar sensors.

Najib had earlier in his speech during the ceremony expressed his sympathy to all family members of those who were on board the fateful flight.

“They are facing such a big test, hopefully Allah will give them strength. I also understand that family members want answers as soon as possible,” he said.

Najib gave assurance that the government was doing its best, coupled with help from other countries, to find the missing plane.

When asked on the security measures currently used at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA), in reference to the alleged stolen passports, Najib said the authorities will inspect the existing protocols.

“We do not know what had happened actually. Currently there are all kinds of theories, There’s no one definitive conclusion.”

Official reports have said that at least two passengers boarded using stolen European passports.

On the possibility of the plane attempting to turn back, Najib said “We have to investigate all possible leads before we make a conclusion.”

It was reported earlier today that military radar records indicated that a possibility that MH370 could have attempted to turn back.

Flight MH370, carrying 227 passengers, including two infants, and 12 crew, went missing enroute from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing about an hour after taking off from KLIA at 12.41am on

Saturday.

It should have landed at 6.30 am.

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