

**Australia Offers Two Aircraft For Search Mission**  
**Bernama**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, March 9 (Bernama) -- The Australian government will be sending two maritime surveillance patrol aircraft to help in the search for Malaysia Airlines (MAS) Flight MH370 which went missing since early Saturday.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott made the offer in a telephone call at noon Sunday.

Najib said the assistance was offered based on the cordial bilateral relations between the two countries.

He said the aircraft were expected to depart Australia late this evening and will arrive at a site determined by the Malaysian authorities, such as the Civil Aviation Department and Navy.

"I accepted the offer and thanked the Australian Prime Minister.

"I believe the contribution will help us in our search for the missing plane," he told reporters after opening the 2014 National Unity Programme here today.

He said additional search and rescue assets and equipment were needed as the operation area had been expanded in the effort find the missing plane soon.

He said in the telephone call, Abbott also expressed the sympathy of the Australian government over the missing Malaysia Airlines aircraft.

Six of the 227 passengers onboard MH370 were Australians. The plane, which 12 crew on board, was en route to Beijing from Kuala Lumpur when it disappeared from radar at 1.30am Saturday.

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