

**Australians' Thoughts With Those On Missing MAS Flight - Abbott
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MELBOURNE, March 9 (Bernama) -- Australia's Prime Minister Tony Abbott said Australians' thoughts were with the passengers and families of those on a missing China-bound Malaysia Airlines aircraft.

Queensland couples Catherine and Robert Lawton and Mary and Rodney Burrows, and Sydneysiders Li Yuan and Gu Naijun, are among 239 people on board flight MH370, which disappeared said to be between Malaysia's east coast and southern Vietnam.

Abbott on Sunday described the tragedy as a "horrible, horrible business".

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the passengers and their families on that ill-fated aircraft, particularly to the six Australian passengers and their families, that have now been confirmed to be on board," he was quoted by the Australian Associated Press as saying to reporters in Adelaide.

We're looking at ways in which we can help with the search and recovery operation."

Echoing Abbott's comments, Opposition leader Bill Shorten said: "I believe the Australian nation's thoughts go out to the families of those Australians and New Zealanders that are on this plane, and indeed the families of everyone."

MAS Flight MH370 went missing en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing after taking off from KLIA at 12.41 am Saturday. It should have landed in Beijing at 6.30 am.

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