

**MH370: No Sign Of Aircraft Yet - DCA**  
**Bernama**  
**9 March, 2014**

SEPANG, March 9 (Bernama) -- "No sign of aircraft yet," said Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) director-general Datuk Azharuddin Abdul Rahman at a press conference at 8pm here today, which revealed little updates on missing Malaysia Airlines (MAS) Flight MH370 aircraft.

Despite a wider search which has expanded to the Melaka Strait, amid beliefs that the aircraft might have made a turn back, there was also no signs of the aircraft there (Melaka Strait), he said.

"We are still investigating all possibilities. The main focus is to find the missing aircraft to determine what happened - that's the outmost important for now," he told hundreds of foreign and local reporters still packing the press conference -- the last briefing from the authorities Sunday.

According to Azharuddin, the search had roped in international efforts from Vietnam, China, Singapore, Indonesia, the United States, Thailand, Australia and the Philippines, involving a total of 34 aircraft and 40 ships.

He said the DCA was leading the search and rescue efforts as well as the investigation process.

As for today, the air search, which started from 7am, had ended at 7pm while the sea search continues.

Meanwhile, Malaysian Armed Forces chief Tan Sri Zulkifeli Mohd Zin said the search and rescue operation did not involve any submarines from the assisting countries.

"They are not sending submarines, some of them are sending submarine escape and rescue vessels including the Malaysian Royal Navy. Both are totally different things," he said.

Zulkifeli also said the two maritime surveillance patrol aircrafts from Australia would arrive at midnight today and tomorrow morning respectively.

Today, Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak received the offer from his counterpart from Australia, Tony Abbott, to help in the search for the Malaysian aircraft.

The next press conference from the authorities will be held tomorrow 12 noon.

MAS Flight MH370, carrying 227 passengers, including two infants, and 12 crew, went missing en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing about an hour after taking off from the KL International Airport at 12.41 am Saturday. It should have landed in Beijing at 6.30 am.

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