

MMEA Finds Large Oil Slick 100 Nautical Miles Off Kelantan
Bernama
9 March, 2014

PASIR PUTEH, March 9 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) found a large oil slick 100 nautical miles from Tok Bali, Kelantan Sunday.

MMEA director-general, Datuk Mohd Amdan Kurish said an MMEA patrol ship had been ordered to collect samples.

"Samples will be analysed to determine if the oil came from MAS Flight MH370 or a passing ship," he told a press conference at MMEA's Search and Rescue (SAR) operations centre at the agency's Tok Bali base here.

He said MMEA's SAR mission was focusing on the path taken by flight MH370 up to the point where it lost contact with Malaysian aviation authorities.

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 KLIA at 12.41 am Saturday. It should have landed in Beijing at 6.30 am.

He said MMEA had also despatched an AW139 helicopter to scour Malaysian waters over a radius of 90 nautical miles from Tok Bali to ensure "every inch is covered".

The DG said the MMEA was now looking for clues to find out if the plane crashed in Malaysian waters in the South China Sea.

"If it did crash into the sea, obviously we will find clothes bags and debris that float," he said, he adding that MMEA would also interview Kelantan and Terengganu-based fishermen as part of the SAR mission as they could be a good source of information.

He added that MMEA would spare no effort in assisting the SAR mission on the missing plane.

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