

## **Missing Plane Incident Won't Have Lasting Impact On MAS' Growth: Economist Bernama**

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**By Tengku Noor Shamsiah Tengku Abdullah**

SINGAPORE, March 9 (Bernama) -- Malaysia Airlines' (MAS) missing aircraft incident will not have a long-lasting impact on the airline's growth prospects, says AMP Capital Investors Head of Investment Strategy and Chief Economist, Dr Shane Oliver.

He noted that such events are invariably negative for airlines in the short term given the investigations and negative publicity.

"But if Malaysia Airlines has done the right thing in terms of safety and/or corrects any problems quickly, then I doubt there will be any long-lasting impact on its growth prospects," he told Bernama.

Oliver was responding to a comment by a foreign news agency that a deadly accident would be a huge blow for MAS, which has lost money for years as it struggles to fend off competition from rivals such as fast-growing Malaysia-based AirAsia.

For the financial year ended 2013, MAS registered a net loss of RM1.173 billion compared to RM432.58 million in the previous year.

Its revenue rose 9.9 per cent to RM15.12 billion from RM13.75 billion.

Flight MH370, which was carrying 227 passengers including two infants, as well as 12 crew members, went missing en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing about an hour after taking off from the KL International Airport in Sepang at 12.41 am on Saturday.

It should have landed in Beijing at 6.30 am.

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