

Travellers Maintain Confidence In MAS' Safety Record

Bernama

9 March, 2014

By Zairina Zainudin, Nurul Hanis Izmir and Azlee Nor Mahmud

SEPANG (Bernama) -- As rescue teams scour the South China Sea for a missing Malaysia Airlines (MAS) plane, several travellers interviewed expressed their confidence in the Malaysian carrier for its safety record.

Michael Lovas, 26, of the United Kingdom, said he had confidence in MAS in the sense of safety and security.

"Regardless of what is happening (a MAS plane having gone missing on Saturday), I would still want to use MAS due to the airline's good safety track record," said Lovas who was travelling to Kota Kinabalu on his first flight on MAS.

He said the airline's safety record was vouched for by airline analysts in their reports.

"The airline has been doing good in the past as well as present. However, it was just very unfortunate that the accident happened," he told Bernama at KLIA.

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

The Boeing 777-200 aircraft, powered by two Rolls-Royce Trent 800 engines, is recognised as one of Asia-Pacific's best full-service carriers in terms of safety and service.

A technology consultant, Jack Westman, said that though many speculators were bashing the Malaysian national carrier, he believed that MAS was still a safe airline to fly with.

"I think MAS is still statistically the safest motor transport to use for international travel.

"In fact, there are fewer accidents in the air compared to road and rail. So, I'm not overly worried," he said, adding that MAS' last deadliest crash was almost 20 years ago.

The 24-year-old Londoner was apparently referring to the MAS Fokker 50 crash in Tawau, Sabah, on Sept 15, 1995, which claimed the lives of 34 people. In 1977, a Boeing 737-200 crashed in Tanjung Kupang, Johor, killing all 100 people on board.

Andreas Andreou, 38, a UK-based lecturer at Universiti Tun Abdul Razak, is a frequent flyer with MAS, travelling an average of five times per year.

"This incident won't diminish my perception of MAS as I won't judge the incident as a whole. I will continue my support and will fly MAS," he said.

Kazi Anisuddin Iqbal, 54, a Bangladeshi furniture manufacturer who attended the just-concluded Malaysian International Furniture Fair 2014 in Kuala Lumpur, said his confidence in MAS had been shattered by the missing plane incident, but admitted that it could happen to any airline.

"It is unexpected for such events to occur," he said.

MAS has 88 aircraft in its fleet, including Airbus A330s and A380s, and Boeing 777-200s and 737s.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2014 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v7/newsindex.php?id=1020421>