

Najib Wants Police Probe Over Lost MAS Aircraft

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KUALA LUMPUR, March 25 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak wants the Royal Malaysia Police to conduct a thorough investigation from every angle on a lost Malaysia Airlines (MAS) aircraft.

The prime minister said that though the real answer to the mystery of the lost aircraft could only be gleaned from the cockpit conversation recorded in the black box, a thorough investigation must be carried out in a professional manner and with commitment.

"An investigation is most necessary because the families of the victims want an answer quickly. This is a major tragedy which is heart-breaking for people in Malaysia and other nations.

"The mission to trace Flight MH370 was carried out with the police, the armed forces and 26 nations, but a thorough investigation into the cause of incident must be carried out to minimise speculation," he said when launching the 207th Police Day at the Police Training Centre (Pulapol) in Jalan Semarak, Kuala Lumpur, Tuesday.

Najib had announced Monday night that Flight MH370 "ended in the southern Indian Ocean".

Flight MH370, carrying 227 passengers and 12 crew, left the KL International Airport at 12.41 am on March 8 and disappeared from radar screens about an hour later while over the South China Sea. It was to have landed in Beijing at 6.30 am on the same day.

A multinational search was mounted for the aircraft, first in the South China Sea and then over a large tract of land and sea west of Malaysia, including the Indian Ocean, when it was learned that the plane had veered off course and flown for seven hours after someone deliberately switched off the communication system on board.

The search then focused on two corridors, namely the northern corridor which stretches from the border of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan to northern Thailand, and the southern corridor which stretches from Indonesia to the southern Indian Ocean.

After satellite imagery showed objects which looked like debris, military aircraft and ships of the multinational search team proceeded to the area in the southern Indian Ocean.

Following an unprecedented type of analysis of satellite data, United Kingdom company Inmarsat and the UK Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB) informed Najib that they had concluded that Flight MH370 flew along the southern corridor and that its last position was in the middle of the

Indian Ocean, west of Perth, Australia.

The police had recorded the statements of 50 individuals to help in investigation into the disappearance of the aircraft.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar said on Monday that among those who had given their statements were the staff of the Department of Civil Aviation, Royal Malaysian Air Force personnel and the families of the passengers and crew of Flight MH370.

Investigation was confined to the four aspects that were announced previously, namely the possibility of hijack, sabotage, the psychological conditions of the passengers and crew and personal problems of the passengers and crew.

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