

## **Singapore PM Expresses Sympathy Over Missing Plane Episode**

**Bernama**

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PUTRAJAYA, April 7 (Bernama) -- Visiting Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong Monday expressed his deepest sympathy over the "tragic loss" of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370.

Lee, who is here for the fifth annual Malaysia-Singapore Leaders' Retreat, said Singapore was ready to provide more assistance in the search for the missing MAS aircraft.

"I express my sympathy to the prime minister (Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak) and to the families of passengers and crew on the board MH370.

"Singapore stands with Malaysia in this tragedy. We participated in the SAR (search and rescue) in the South China Sea and the Strait of Melaka.

"I told the prime minister we stand ready to help Malaysia, also in the next phase of the investigation," Lee told a joint press conference with Najib in conjunction with retreat.

Earlier, Najib thanked Lee for Singapore's assistance in the MH370 SAR, saying the republic was one of the first countries in the region to have provided prompt aid.

In the joint statement, the two leaders agreed to explore ways for both sides to work more closely with other fellow Asean member states in the SAR in line with the Asean Political-Security Community Blueprint.

The search for the missing flight continues in the remote southern Indian Ocean even as the pulse signals detected since Friday had yet to be verified.

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, after it was learned that the plane had veered off course, along two corridors - the northern corridor stretching from the border of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan to northern Thailand and the southern corridor, from Indonesia to the southern Indian Ocean.

Following an unprecedented type of analysis of satellite data, United Kingdom satellite telecommunications company Inmarsat and the UK Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB) 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.

Najib then announced on March 24, seventeen days after the disappearance of Boeing 777-200 aircraft, that Flight MH370 "ended in the southern Indian Ocean".

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