

**Najib must walk diplomatic tightrope in Beijing visit next month, says daily
Malaysian Insider
6 Apr, 2014**

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak is set to visit China next month to mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries. But he must also walk a diplomatic tightrope in Beijing, says the South China Morning Post today.

Najib's trip is set against the backdrop of the missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370, which disappeared on March 8 with 227 passengers and 12 crew members on board the Boeing 777-200ER. Almost two-thirds of the passengers are Chinese nationals.

When Najib arrives in Beijing, SCMP said, he would have to strike a balance between showing enthusiasm for the historic occasion and conveying respect for the relatives of Chinese passengers on MH370.

"We have to be sensitive towards the feeling of the families, and large-scale celebration seems not very possible," said Najib's political secretary, Wong Nai Chee.

"Without the missing flight incident, we could have (had) the celebrations in a different manner."

On March 24, Najib announced that flight of Malaysian Airlines MH370 "ended in the southern Indian Ocean" – news that was greeted with dismay and anger by relatives in Beijing.

Angry Chinese families had also accused Putrajaya and its military had "continually and extremely delayed, hidden and covered the facts, and attempted to deceive the passengers' relatives and people all over the world".

Families protested outside the Malaysian embassy in Beijing and accused Najib of being "inhumane" to their plight.

Najib's political secretary Wong told SCMP that Malaysia faced the dilemma of whether to announce the MH370's fate despite no wreckage being found.

"It is reasonable for the families to demand direct evidence," he said. "But the accusations targeted at us should be based on objective facts rather than on speculation and conspiracy theories."

But Wong was also confident that the saga surrounding MH370 would not have a long-term impact on bilateral ties. – April 6, 2014.

Hakcipta © 2014 The Malaysian Insider

Source: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/najib-must-walk-diplomatic-tightrope-in-beijing-visit-next-month-says-daily>