

MAS to Allocate US\$50,000 Each to Next-of-kin of Chinese Passengers on Board MH370

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BEIJING, May 2 (Bernama) -- Malaysia Airlines (MAS) will allocate US\$50,000 as advanced compensation payment to the next-of-kin of each Chinese passenger on board the Malaysia Airlines (MAS) MH370 aircraft which vanished on March 8.

The payments would be made to individuals entitled to claim compensation to meet their immediate economic needs, MAS said in a statement which was pasted on the door of a ballroom at the Lido Hotel here on Friday.

It said MAS would notify the next-of-kin on details of the payment within a fortnight.

"The notification of the payment details will be posted at MAS' official platform. We will send a written notice to the Chinese next-of-kin, too," it added.

Meanwhile, Steve Wang, whose mother was on board the ill-fated aircraft told Malaysian reporters that the families would leave the hotel despite receiving the "last minute" notification last night.

In a separate statement earlier today, MAS confirmed that it would close its MH370 Family Assistance Centres here at 6pm Friday.

The statement said a MH370 Family Support Centre would be established on May 4 at the Shunyi district here, whose function was to communicate with the Malaysian and Chinese governments, MAS and liaise with the affected families.

It said three hotlines would be set up to enable the public to contact the centre. They are 10-800-130-1364 (toll-free), 10-800-713-1404 (toll-free) and 400-720-8792.

Flight MH370 carrying 239 passengers and crew went missing while on its flight to Beijing about an hour after departing from the KL International Airport at 12.41am. It was scheduled to arrive in Beijing at 6.30am, the same day.

Seventeen days later, the flight path of MH370 ended in the southern Indian Ocean. The search for the aircraft continues.

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