

DAP tells Putrajaya to come clean on MH370, present white paper
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Putrajaya should should present a white paper to Parliament on the missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 and the overall costs involved in the search operations and future expenditure, the DAP said today.

Kluang MP Liew Chin Tong (pic) said it was necessary to give an account to Parliament, pointing out that Australia treasurer Joe Hockey had recently announced that the Australian government allocated A\$90 million (RM270 million) for the search of the missing jetliner for the next two years.

Liew, referring to acting Transport Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein's tweet this morning that he would table a Cabinet Note jointly with the Ministry of Defence and Wisma Putra today, said it should be made public.

"I strongly urge Hishammuddin to release the Cabinet Note to the public via a white paper to the Parliament with a full debate by the Members of Parliament," Liew said.

He urged Putrajaya to allow for a Parliamentary Select Committee to be set up to investigate the MH370 crisis and remedies needed to ensure no recurrence of such a tragedy.

The Beijing-bound flight with 239 onboard disappeared from radar screens at 1.21am on March 8.

The international search for the missing jetliner has proven futile so far, with Putrajaya being continuously rapped by aviation experts and family

members of passengers over its lack of transparency in handling the crisis.

Liew said that a white paper to Parliament was necessary as Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak had conceded that "we didn't get everything right", quoting the latter's opinion piece in the Wall Street Journal (WSJ) yesterday.

As such, Liew, who is also DAP national political education director, called on Putrajaya to be more open about what actually went wrong on March 8.

"A more candid and transparent approach will help revive confidence in Malaysian institutions. Najib doesn't inspire confidence when he tells the world that 'nobody saw this coming, nobody knows why it happened, and nobody knows precisely where it is'," he added.

He also questioned Najib's claim in WSJ that apart from the response time, the only thing that went wrong was "communications", which he said suggested that Malaysia had done no wrong.

"In the first few days after the plane disappeared, we were so focused on trying to find the aircraft that we did not prioritise our communications," Najib wrote. – May 14, 2014.

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