

**Inmarsat refutes Putrajaya, says raw data handed over to MH370 search team, reports CNN  
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The British satellite firm responsible for pinpointing missing MH370's flight path has refuted Putrajaya's remarks yesterday that it had yet to release its raw data.

The firm said it had submitted all information to investigators leading the search.

"Inmarsat's raw data was provided to the investigation team at an early stage in the search for MH370," Chris McLaughlin, the company's vice-president of external relations, told CNN today.

He was responding to acting Transport Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein's remarks yesterday that the raw data was with Inmarsat and not with those leading the search or even with Malaysia Airlines.

"The raw data is with Inmarsat, not with Malaysia, not with Australia, not with Malaysia Airlines.

"So if there is any request for this raw data to be made available to the public, it must be made to Inmarsat," he said during a press conference on MH370 in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

McLaughlin said that the company had the highest confidence in the analysis of its data, adding that the matter of releasing the information was in the hands of the investigators.

CNN also reported Inmarsat as saying that the Convention on

International Civil Aviation prevents the release of findings from an investigation without the consent from the state conducting the investigation.

Commenting on the contradicting statements by Inmarsat and Putrajaya, CNN aviation analyst Miles O'Brien said he did not know who to believe and that one party was not telling the truth.

"I don't know who to believe. But isn't it awful that it's quite evident somebody is lying here? Somebody is lying.

"We're talking about something that involves a missing airliner, now 70 days. Lives lost, families shattered. And there (are) people lying about this. This is absolutely reprehensible. I can't even believe... it would be funny if it wasn't so tragic," he said.

Aviation attorney Arthur Rosenberg told CNN he believed the satellite company was obligated to release the data, whether or not Malaysian authorities have it.

"Unfortunately, you almost get the sense that they're stalling, that there's something in there that they don't want the world to see. And that's the problem," O'Brien said. "That's why there's so little credibility right now about why this search zone has been identified."

Earlier this month, families of passengers aboard MH370 had implored Putrajaya to release the raw data so that it could be verified for accuracy.

"We implore the Malaysian government to share and release the raw Inmarsat satellite engine ping data for 9MMRO until the final signal was received globally so that it can be subject to broader analysis by relevant experts," said Voice370, which is made up of family members of passengers and crew members aboard the plane.

The plea by Voice370 came after Putrajaya released its widely-criticised preliminary report on the missing flight.

Bill Palmer, an airbus A330 captain who wrote a book on the Air France 447 crash, had compared the lack of detail in the five-page preliminary report to preliminary reports from other accidents, including the Air France tragedy.

After a fruitless two months of scouring the southern Indian Ocean for wreckage, search officials are now seeking the expertise of private companies to aid in the search.

Hishammuddin had said yesterday that all air and surface searches had been suspended and the focus now would be on undersea operations.

Putrajaya is in the process of acquiring tools from companies such as Petronas, Sapura Kencana, Boustead and DEFTECH, he had said.

Other nations may also have other assets that will complement the search. – May 16, 2014.

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