

**Najib believes flight MH370 will eventually be found**  
**Malaysian Insider**  
**June 2, 2014**  
**By Sheridan Mahavera**

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak is confident that Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 will "eventually be found".

This is despite a fruitless 3-month search by 26 countries and an on-going world debate over whether the data used for that recovery effort was accurate in the first place.

"Although flight MH370 has not yet been found – and I am confident that we will eventually find it – our joint and coordinated efforts have already shown the value of harnessing the collective strengths of countries in times of need."

Najib's remarks come on the back of increasing frustration with the lack of progress in the search for the Beijing-bound flight which disappeared from radar on March 8 about one hour after it took off from the Kuala Lumpur International Airport.

According to satellite data, the plane supposedly deviated from its original course and made a turn-back over peninsular Malaysia, then headed towards a remote area of the Indian Ocean off the coast of Western Australia, where it was believed to have crashed.

Hopes of finding the plane were raised when four acoustic signals or "pings" were detected underwater, that were said to be from the aircraft's black box.

However, after weeks of scouring about 850 square kilometres of the ocean floor around the area where the pings were heard and coming up with nothing, Australian officials in charge of the search effort have ruled out the specific area as the plane's final resting place.

Some families of the 239 passengers and crew on the Boeing 777 have meanwhile criticised the Malaysian government for its haphazard handling of the crisis.

Some have even claimed that the mess of contradicting statements by different Malaysian officials and an incomplete report of the accident hinted at a "cover up".

In a speech last night at the opening of a summit by regional foreign policy experts, Najib paid homage to the countries who took part in the search effort.

“The breadth and depth of cooperation in the search has been as unprecedented as the disappearance of the aircraft itself.

“The region’s military forces and law enforcement agencies have exchanged huge amounts of data and information to facilitate the search.

“Even to the extent of releasing sensitive raw data from military radars, thereby putting the search effort above national security priorities,” Najib said at the opening of the 28th Asia-Pacific Roundtable.

His speech was read out by Home Minister Datuk Seri Zahid Hamidi. – June 2, 2014.

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