

Liow Returning To Kuala Lumpur Amidst Reports Of Malaysian Airliner Crash
Bernama
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KUALA LUMPUR, July 17 (Bernama) -- Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai who is in Beijing on an official visit, said he could not yet confirm news that a Malaysian airliner had crashed in Ukraine near the Russian border on Thursday.

Nevertheless, he would be returning to Kuala Lumpur immediately.

"I can't confirm the news. Malaysia Airlines will issue a statement. But I will return to Malaysia as soon as possible as I need to handle this matter urgently," he said when contacted by Bernama.

Liow is in China to meet with his counterpart and discuss the search mission for MH370 which went missing on March 8.

Liow is also scheduled to visit Australia for a meeting with representatives from three countries to discuss on the next course of action in regard to the MH370 search mission.

A Malaysian passenger airliner with 295 people on board crashed in Ukraine near the Russian border on Thursday, the Interfax news agency cited an aviation industry source as saying.

The Boeing plane was flying from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur, it said.

Reuters could not immediately confirm the report.

The Interfax report said the plane came down 50 km (20 miles) short of entering Russian airspace.

"It began to drop, afterwards it was found burning on the ground on Ukrainian territory," the unnamed source said.

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