

MAS Faces Another Tragedy Four Months After MH370 Disappeared

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KUALA LUMPUR, July 18 (Bernama) -- Another tragedy has shocked the nation when Malaysia Airlines (MAS) faces another airliner accident, involving its Flight MH17 which has been reported to have crashed in Ukraine.

On the latest development, MH17 was reported by a foreign media to have been "shot down" while it was cruising at an altitude of 30,000ft and crashed in Ukraine near the Russian border.

The plane was flying from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur with 280 passengers and 15 crew.

Four months ago, on March 8, MAS plane MH370, enroute from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 239 people onboard, went missing and believed to have ended in the southern Indian Ocean.

The search for the aircraft was still on-going with no trace of its debris been found.

In a quick reaction, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib tweeted, "was shocked by the report that MAS airliner crashed, launching an immediate investigation on the report".

Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Hamzah Zainuddin when contacted by Bernama said Wisma Putra was working closely with the Russian and Ukraine governments on the news report.

MAS in a statement had confirmed it had received notification from Ukrainian ATC that it had lost contact with flight MH17 at 1415 (GMT) at 30km from Tamak waypoint, about 50km from the Russia-Ukraine border.

The aircraft manufacturer, Boeing, was ready to provide whatever assistance requested by authorities in regards to MH17.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with those on board the Malaysia Airlines airplane lost over Ukrainian airspace, as well as their families and loved ones," it said in a statement issued from Seattle Thursday.

The Ukrainian Government portal at <http://www.kmu.gov.ua/> on Wednesday had issued a statement on the situation at the Ukrainian-Russian border, saying that the situation there remained tense.

"Border guards continue performing tasks within the ATO general plan. Russian mercenaries and terrorists keep shelling border guard units," said the website.

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