

Muhyiddin Calls On Malaysians To Unite In Facing Test Of MH17 Tragedy
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KUALA LUMPUR, July 18 (Bernama) -- Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin Friday called on the whole Malaysian community to unite in facing the test of the MH17 crash tragedy.

The deputy prime minister said this was the most apt time to prove that as Malaysians, the people were united and not quarrel with each other and point the accusing finger at any party.

"We have gone through various tests and difficult times before. Let us all unite as Malaysian citizens in facing a big test such as this (MH17 crash).

"The attack on the Malaysian Airlines (MAS) aircraft, flight MH17 was not just an attack or a violent action against Malaysia. It was an attack against humanity and against all who love peace," he said in a statement today.

MH17 which was carrying 283 passengers and 15 crew, was confirmed to have crashed in Ukraine while on a flight from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak earlier today said the Ukrainian authorities believed that the Boeing 777 airliner had been fired at.

Expressing his sympathy and condolences to the families of the MH17 passengers and crew, Muhyiddin hoped those responsible for the tragedy be brought to justice fast and given the heaviest penalty for the crime they had committed.

He also reiterated the Malaysian government's stand to cooperate closely with the governments of the other countries affected and international agencies to facilitate the investigations.

"The world wants answers and action, whatever the cost, how long it takes and the efforts needed. We want the world to be with us in acting clearly and firmly to bring the criminals to justice," he said.

To the families of all the MH17 passengers and crew, Muhyiddin expressed hope they would be patient in facing this test and he also wants other Malaysians to share their sadness and grief over the tragedy.

He said the sadness and pain felt by the families, next of kin and friends of the passengers and crew was just too great to bear that it could not be expressed in words.

"My condolences to the family members and next of kin of the passengers and crew. I am

sure the government and people of this country will together assist them in whatever way we can in going through this very trying time," he said.

Of the 298 people onboard MH17, 43 were Malaysians.

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