

**PM's Special Message, On Crash Of MH17, Delivered On July 18**  
**Bernama**  
**July 19, 2014**

Following is the full text of the special message, on the crash of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17, delivered last night (July 18) by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim,

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, Salam Sejahtera.

1. Yesterday, Thursday 17 July 2014, the world at large and we Malaysians in particular were shocked by an unexpected tragedy when a Boeing 777-222 commercial aircraft of Malaysia Airlines, Flight MH17, flying from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur was reported to have crashed in a region of eastern Ukraine.

2. The flight was reported to have taken off at 12.15 pm (local time) and was scheduled to arrive at KLIA at 6.10 am (Malaysian time, Friday). The flight was carrying 298 people, comprising 283 passengers and 15 crew. Forty-three of them, including two infants, were Malaysian citizens.

3. Malaysia Airlines confirmed having been notified by the Air Traffic Control in Ukraine that it lost contact with Flight MH17 at 10.15 pm (Malaysian time) when the plane was about 50 kilometres from the Russia-Ukraine border.

4. On behalf of the Government, I express my extreme sadness over the tragic incident that has befallen the passengers and crew on that plane.

5. The Government expresses its deepest condolences and profound sympathies to all the families, friends and acquaintances of the victims of the tragedy. It is hoped that they will remain bold and courageous in their moment of deep grief.

My beloved Malaysians,

6. Although it is believed that Flight MH17 was shot down, at this point of time we are not pointing fingers at any party until we have verified evidence.

7. Nevertheless, we strongly condemn this merciless, barbaric, savage and irresponsible act.

8. Furthermore, in stating the firm stand of Malaysians, as the Prime Minister, I have decided to call an emergency session of Parliament to table a motion condemning this inhumane act.

My beloved Malaysians,

9. In facing this most challenging situation, especially in these few remaining blessed and rewarding days of Ramadan, I urge all Malaysians, especially the Muslims, regardless of political affiliation, to hold 'solat hajat' prayers for God to keep our beloved Malaysia peaceful and free of disasters, calamities and threats that can trigger chaos.

10. Malaysians who profess other religions are encouraged to hold prayers and religious rites in accordance with their respective beliefs.

11. Also, in this regard, the Government has decided that the national flag will be flown at half-mast nationwide from tonight until Monday, 21 July 2014. I have expressed this matter to His Majesty, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

12. It has to be borne in mind, and I am made to understand, that the area where the disaster took place is under the domination and control of rebel forces. As such, we are taking various efforts, including through diplomatic channels and the good relations Malaysia enjoys with the relevant countries, for smooth execution of the task of the investigating team as well as the funeral rites for the victims.

13. Firstly, the Government of Malaysia demands that the relevant parties must guarantee and ensure the safety of the investigating team during the whole period of the probe.

14. Secondly, the Government of Malaysia urges the parties concerned not to tamper with or impair the evidence at the scene so as to allow for a transparent and effective probe.

15. Thirdly, if the investigation proves that Flight MH17 was indeed shot down, Malaysia demands that those responsible be brought to justice.

16. I conveyed all these three demands today to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon. I have also requested the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, to extend full cooperation to help achieve these objectives.

17. In fact, this evening, we sent a plane carrying a special team, comprising a SMART team, a medical squad and a group from Jakim (Department of Islamic Development Malaysia) to the disaster area.

My beloved Malaysians,

18. In conclusion, in these emotionally stirring and extremely challenging moments, let us be together in spirit and strengthen unity among ourselves in facing this critical situation.

May God help guide us in achieving our endeavours

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