

**Special Investigation Body On Flight MH17 Crash Must Be Fully Independent -
Muhyiddin
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SHAH ALAM, July 19 (Bernama) -- Malaysia wants the special investigation body that will be set up to probe the Malaysia Airlines (MAS) flight MH17 crash in Ukraine to be independent and given full power to conduct it.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said this was to identify the actual cause of the incident that claimed 298 lives, including 44 Malaysians.

"The United Nations Security Council is asking for a full investigation to be undertaken by the special investigation body but I think this body must be fully independent and given the power as well as freedom to enter the crash area to conduct the probe.

"This liberty is vital to enable the investigating body to use all means to establish the real culprit. What is important is that all Malaysians and the whole world wish to know who is responsible in shooting down the plane," he told a media conference after a working visit to I-City condominium site at section 7 here Saturday in conjunction with the dengue fever prevention campaign.

The MAS flight, MH17, was flying from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur when it went down in Ukraine. It was carrying 298 people - 283 passengers and 15 crew.

The Boeing 777-200ER departed from Amsterdam at 12.15 pm (Netherlands time) Thursday and was scheduled to arrive in Kuala Lumpur at 6.10 am (Malaysian time) on Friday.

Muhyiddin said the act of shooting a commercial airliner was a big crime with wide implication as flight MH17 passengers comprised not only Malaysians but also involved many others from other countries.

"This matter has brought about a disaster that affected many parties, so the world community cannot allow it to happen and Malaysia supports the decision to set up the special investigation body," he said.

He was confident all the Members of Parliament would agree to such a joint decision, regardless of political differences, once a special Dewan Rakyat sitting was convened as it was a national and global issue.

"Our hope is to strongly condemn what has happened to MH17," he said.

The deputy prime minister said when the United Nations convened an emergency meeting

to discuss the tragedy, it did not only touch on the incident but also on the conflict between two big powers, Ukraine and Russia.

"Whatever it is, Malaysians must stand firmly as one on the stand being taken by the government. We hope the international body will take firm action. We do not want, that despite being a free, neutral and peaceful country, we are a victim to such a crisis," he added.

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