

**Malaysia Makes Breakthrough With Leader Of Crash Site**  
**Bernama**  
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PUTRAJAYA, July 22 (Bernama) -- Malaysia has reached an agreement with the leader of the crash site for three crucial deals in regards to the ill-fated Malaysia Airlines (MAS) flight MH17, which crashed in eastern Ukraine on Thursday.

The agreement involved the handling of the MH17 victims' remains, custody of the black box and access of independent international investigators into the crash site.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, in a late press conference at Seri Perdana on Monday, said he had spoke to Alexander Borodai, who is in command of the region, where the tragedy occurred.

"In recent days, we have been working behind the scenes to establish contact with those in charge of the MH17 crash site.

"That contact has now been made. Under difficult and fluid circumstances, we have been discussing the problems that have occupied us all," he said, adding these included securing vital evidence from the aircraft, launching an independent investigation and recovering the remains of those who lost their lives.

"Tonight, we have established the basis of an agreement to do just that," he said.

The first agreement involves the remains of 282 people, currently in Torez, which will be moved by train to Kharkiv, where they will be handed over to representatives from the Netherlands.

He said the train would depart this evening Ukraine time and would be accompanied by six Malaysian members of the recovery team.

He said the remains would then be flown to Amsterdam on board a Dutch C130 Hercules, together with the Malaysian team.

"Following any necessary forensic work, the remains of Malaysian citizens will then be flown home to Malaysia," he said.

Secondly, the prime minister said at approximately 9pm tonight Ukraine time, the two black boxes would be handed over to a Malaysian team in Donetsk, who would take custody of them.

Thirdly, he said independent international investigators would be guaranteed safe access to the crash site to begin a full investigation of the incident.

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"I must stress that although agreement has been reached, there remains a number of steps required before it is completed," he said.

Najib said there was work still to be done, work which relied on continued communication in good faith.

He said Borodai and his people had so far given their co-operation.

"I ask that all parties continue to work together to ensure that this agreement is honoured; that the remains of our people are returned, that the black box is handed over and that the international team is granted full access to the site.

"Only then can the investigation into MH17 truly begin; only then can the victims be afforded the respect they deserve. We need to know what caused the plane to crash and who was responsible for it so that justice may be done," he said.

Najib said in recent days, there were times he wanted to give greater voice to the anger and grief that the Malaysian people felt.

"And that I feel. But sometimes, we must work quietly in the service of a better outcome.

"I understand that for the families, nothing can undo this damage. The lives taken cannot be given back; the dignity lost cannot be regained," he said.

Najib said his heart reached out to those, whose loved ones were lost on MH17.

"We hope and pray that the agreement reached tonight helps bring them a clear step towards closure," he said.

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. It is believed that the Boeing 777 was shot down.

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