

## **A Year Of MH370's SAR Chronology**

**Bernama**

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**By Mohd Razman Abdullah**

KUALA LUMPUR, March 7 (Bernama) -- This is the Search and Rescue (SAR) Operation's chronology of events pertaining to the missing Malaysia Airlines (MAS) Flight MH370, a year after it lost contact at 2.40am on March 8, last year.

The aircraft disappeared at a point, 120 nautical miles east of Kota Kinabalu over the South China Sea, and there was no indication of a distress signal from the Boeing 777-200ER aircraft with 239 people on board.

The plane had taken off from the KL International Airport (KLIA) at 12.41am and was scheduled to land in Beijing at 6.30am.

The passengers comprised 38 Malaysians, Chinese nationals (153), Indonesians (seven), Australians (seven), French (three), USA nationals (three), New Zealand (two), Ukraine (two), Canada (two), Russia (one), Italy (one), Taiwan (one), Holland (one) and Austria (one).

Following the incident, Malaysia launched the international SAR Operation and until today, the search is ongoing.

\* March 8, 2014 (Day 1) - An SAR operation for the missing aircraft was launched in the South China Sea at 5.30am.

\* March 9, 2014 (Day 2) - The search area extended to Melaka Straits after it was confirmed the aircraft had made an air-turn-back. - Several countries including Singapore, Vietnam, Indonesia, China and the United States deployed their men and assets to aid the search.

\* March 15, 2014 (Day 8) - Prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the plane's last communication with the satellite was in one of two possible corridors; a northern corridor stretching approximately from the border of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan to northern Thailand or southern corridor stretching approximately from Indonesia to the southern Indian Ocean.

- 26 countries are involved in this phase covering 2.24 million square nautical miles.

\* March 24, 2014 (Day 17) - Najib announces that data released by Britain's Inmarsat satellite concludes that flight ended in the southern Indian Ocean, and Australia will lead the search operation there.

\* April 1, 2014 (Day 25) - The Australian Government launches the Joint Agency Coordination Centre (JACC) to co-ordinate search for MH370.

\* April 3, 2014 (Day 27) - Najib arrived in Perth, Australia to have a first-hand look at the search operation, holds meeting with Australian counterpart, Tony Abbott.

\* April 4, 2014 (Day 28) - JACC said search for MH370 enters new phase with underwater search in the southern Indian Ocean to scour treacherous waters to track down the black box 'pinger'.

\* July 31, 2014 (Day 146) - JACC said the bathymetric survey by Zhu Kezhen and Fugro Equator along the seventh arch at southern Indian Ocean is progressing.

\* Oct 21, 2014 (Day 227) - Malaysian contracted vessel, GO Phoenix, joins search operations of Malaysia-Australia contracted ships, Fugro Discovery and Fugro Equator.

- Later, another ship was added to assist the search, Fugro Supporter.

\* Jan 29, 2015 (Day 326) - Malaysian DCA Director-General Datuk Azharuddin Abdul Rahman officially declared MH370 an accident, in accordance with the Standards of Annexes 12 and 13 of the Chicago Convention and that all 239 of the passengers and crew on board MH370 were presumed to have lost their lives.

\* Feb 12, 2015 (Day 340) - Malaysian government was discussing with China for additional ships in the search mission for MH370 aircraft, which already had four vessels involved.

\* Feb 25, 2015 (Day 353) - The search and recovery (SAR) for the MH370 in the remote area of the Indian Ocean had covered over 24,000 square kilometres of the seafloor, which is around 40 per cent of the priority search area, said JACC.

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