

MH370: Technical Examinations Under Judicial Procedure For Flaperon
Bernama
Aug 4, 2015

PUTRAJAYA, Aug 4 (Bernama) -- Technical examinations will be conducted in the framework of judicial procedure and of the international technical investigation all together for the examination of the flaperon found in Reunion Island.

Malaysia's Department of Civil Aviation director-general Datuk Seri Azharuddin Abdul Rahman said the matter was agreed upon when officials from Malaysia together with officials from the French Civil Aviation Safety Investigation Authority (BEA) met the investigating judge in Paris on Aug 3 in a coordination meeting.

The coordination meeting was to discuss the inspection and verification procedures ahead of the examination of the flaperon scheduled for Wednesday (Aug 5) in Toulouse, he said in a statement released, here, today.

"It has been an informative and fruitful meeting and Malaysia fully appreciates the cooperation given in this matter," said Azharuddin, who is also the chairman of the High-Level Technical Task Force MH370.

The flaperon was moved to Toulouse, France on Aug 1 under the framework of the French judicial investigation led by M. Alain Gaudino, the investigating judge, for further inspection to verify its origins.

On July 29, part of the wing of an aircraft known as flaperon was found on Reunion Island and believed to be from a Boeing 777, fuelling intense speculation that it may belong to the missing Malaysia Airlines MH370.

On March 8 last year, Flight MH370 disappeared from the radar while flying from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 239 passengers and crew.

Azharuddin said Malaysia and France shared the concerns and anxiety of all the next-of-kin in determining the origin of the flaperon in hope of ending the 16-month painful wait for determinative news and physical evidence of the missing aircraft.

"Malaysia also records its appreciation to the BEA for facilitating the coordination meeting," he said.

Azharuddin reiterated Kuala Lumpur's commitment that it would do everything necessary to assist in the verification process and any subsequent investigation that might be undertaken in France even as Malaysia continued its own investigations into this matter.

According to Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation of Dec 7, 1944, Malaysia, as the State of Register and State of Operator of the Boeing 777 - MH370, had opened a safety investigation on March 8, last year.

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