

**Focus on bringing culprits in MH17 downing to justice, says Najib  
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With the Dutch Safety Board confirming that flight MH17 was shot down by a Russian-made missile, the focus now should be on bringing the perpetrators to justice, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said tonight, soon after the board's technical report on the shooting down of the Malaysia Airlines flight was released.

Najib in a statement said Malaysia would remain committed to bringing those responsible to justice and also called for the criminal investigation to provide answers.

"We now know that the plane was hit by a Russian-made BUK missile fired from rebel-held territory in eastern Ukraine.

"While this has long been speculated about, the fact that these chain of events have now been proven conclusively by the Dutch Safety Board means that we must move forward towards ensuring that those responsible are held accountable for this murderous act.

"The on-going criminal investigation, which is being led by the Dutch with our full support, must provide definitive answers and allow us to pursue the strongest action possible against those responsible," he said.

Forty three of the 298 people on board the Amsterdam-Kuala Lumpur flight were Malaysians.

The plane was shot down on July 17 while flying over eastern Ukraine, where pro-Russian separatists are fighting the Ukrainian government.

"This was an unforeseeable act and, of the 160 flights that were on MH17's general route that day, not one was advised by the relevant authorities against any specific threat," Najib added.

Expressing sadness on the loss of the next of kin of passengers and crew, the prime minister said they were in his thoughts and prayers.

"It has been, and will remain, a difficult journey – particularly for those who lost their loves ones, who are in my thoughts and prayers. But I promise you that Malaysia will remain steadfast until those behind this heinous act are made to pay for their crimes."

Malaysia had initiated the setting up of an ad-hoc criminal international tribunal at the United Nations to try those responsible for the downing of MH17. The resolution received the support of 11 countries, but Russia used its veto right to block the proposal.

The Dutch are currently leading the criminal investigation into the incident. – October 13, 2015.

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