

MH370 search costs Malaysia RM231 million to date
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Malaysia has spent RM231.45 million in the search for the missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 as at October this year, according to the Transport Ministry.

However, the ministry was unable to ascertain the total cost for the search operation, citing it was still ongoing.

As for the MH17, the ministry said in a parliamentary written reply today that the government spent RM12.87 million to deal with the tragedy.

The ministry was responding to DAP's Seputeh MP, Teresa Kok, who queried on the government's total expenditures in both tragedies.

On the compensation amount paid to the next-of-kins, the ministry said it was calculated based on the Montreal Convention 1999 with the subject to proof of loss borne by each passengers.

It added the now renamed Malaysia Airline Bhd (MAB) had provided advanced compensation payments (ACP) and Crew Assistance Package amounting to US\$50,000 (RM214,655) to family members as part of the compensation.

To date, a total of 236 and 74 families of the passengers of the MH17 and MH370 respectively had received the compensation, amounting to US\$16.6 million (RM71.27 million).

Flight MH17, enroute to Kuala Lumpur from Amsterdam, was shot down over Ukraine on July 17, 2014, killing all 283 passengers and 15 crew members on board.

The flight lost contact about 50km from the Ukraine–Russia border and crashed near Torez in Donetsk.

Flight MH370 was disappeared on March 8 last year, after departing Kuala Lumpur for Beijing.

The search for the missing flight is still ongoing in the southern Indian Ocean. – The Edge Markets, November 2, 2015.

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