

MH370: No Factual Information This Year, Only Interim Statement

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PUTRAJAYA, March 8 (Bernama) -- The independent investigation team on the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 is not issuing factual information on the incident at its second anniversary Tuesday, unlike last year.

Malaysian ICAO Annex 13 Safety Investigation Team team leader Datuk Kok Soo Chon said only an interim statement was issued at the second anniversary of the aircraft disappearance, which was also televised on RTM1 as he read out the statement.

Last year, the investigation team had issued an interim statement and a factual information on the incident.

"We collected all the facts and we find these are useful information. It's time for us to share it with the public. So, we put it on the website.

"Because this team practises transparency. Whatever we find that we can review, we share and we put it up. We want to look for the truth in whatever possible," he said referring to the factual information published last year.

When met here Tuesday, Kok said the team was still investigating the incident based on about 600-page factual information that had been published last year, as well as new information gathered.

But for the report (factual information) we're working on now, is still incomplete so we cannot share that part of it now. It's either you share the whole thing or you share nothing at all.

"So for this anniversary, we chose to share only the interim statement," he explained.

Kok said under the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Annex 13, the team was obliged to release an interim statement every year in conjunction with the anniversary of the tragedy to furnish progress of the investigation.

The chief investigator also made a distinction that what was published last year was factual information and not a report.

"When people read it (the factual information), they were upset because there was no conclusion. Of course, it had no conclusion because it's just factual information, not a report," he said.

He said a final report on the tragedy would be prepared after the search for the wreckage was terminated.

Flight MH370, with 239 people on board, disappeared from the radar while enroute to Beijing from Kuala Lumpur on March 8, 2014.

The jetliner has yet to be found although massive search operations were conducted in the southern Indian Ocean, the place the Boeing 777-200ER is believed to have ended its flight path after diverting from its original route.

A flaperon was found in July last year on Reunion Island, off France and on Aug 6 last year, Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak confirmed it belonged to MH370.

Earlier this month, another discovery of a part of an object believed to belong to a Boeing 777 aircraft was reported to be found in the Mozambique coast, while yesterday, another aircraft part was found on Reunion Island, which was also linked to the MH370 aircraft.

The Malaysian ICAO Annex 13 Safety Investigation Team for MH370, headed by the investigator-in-chief, comprises 19 Malaysians and seven accredited representatives of seven safety authorities from seven countries.

They are Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB), Civil Aviation Administration of China, France's Bureau d'Enquetes et d'Analyses, Indonesia's National Transportation Safety Committee, Singapore's Air Accident Investigation Bureau, United Kingdom's Air Accidents Investigation Branch and National Transportation Safety Board of the United States.

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