

PM: Vietnamese navy hasn't found wreckage
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The Royal Malaysian Navy has confirmed with its Vietnamese counterpart that no wreckage of Malaysian Airlines' MH370 was found in Vietnamese waters, Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak said.

"The Royal Malaysian Navy has confirmed there is no wreckage," he told media today.

He was referring to a Vietnamese news report quoting a navy official that the missing plane was presumed to have crashed off the southern coast of Vietnam based on its flight path and other data.

The Department of Civil Aviation and the Foreign Ministry earlier denied the reports, while the Royal Malaysian Navy had sought to verify this with its Vietnamese counterparts.

At this point, no one is sure what has happened to MH370.

Najib said that search area has been expanded after the first phase of the mission, which concentrated on the area where the plane was last spotted on radar, has returned nothing.

The vessel was last spotted about 120 nautical miles off the coast Kota Bharu above the South China Sea at 1.30am.

"We have decided to expand the search mission and are deploying more of our (military) assets for this," he said.

This include transporter aircraft, helicopters and sea vessels belonging to the Royal Malaysian Airforce, Royal Malaysian Navy and maritime police.

'As long as it takes'

Asked of the parameters of the search area, the PM simply said that "it is very wide"

He also said that the mission will go on "as long as it takes".

"I cannot provide more information as we have not spotted anything and it is too early to make any conclusions.

"Anything is possible and any theories will remain theories for now in the absence of hard evidence," he said.

He said that the US Navy and Singapore will also provide air assistance to comb the search area.

When asked on the possibility that MH370 was hijacked, Najib said: "We are looking at all possibilities but it is too early to make conclusive remarks."

Najib added that he has also contacted his Chinese counterpart to "express condolences" for the 152 Chinese nationals and on Taiwanese on board.

38 Malaysians and passengers of 12 other nationalities make up the 239 passengers and crew on board.

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