

MH370: REUNION DEBRIS IS FROM MISSING MALAYSIA FLIGHT

Part of the aircraft wing found on Reunion Island is from the missing MH370 plane, Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak has confirmed.

Mr Najib said international experts examining the debris in France had "conclusively confirmed" it was from the aircraft.

The Malaysia Airlines plane carrying 239 people veered off course from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing in March 2014.

The debris was found on the remote French Indian Ocean island a week ago.

The plane is believed to have crashed into the southern Indian Ocean - though no evidence had been found despite a massive search operation.

"It is with a very heavy heart that I must tell you that an international team of experts has conclusively confirmed that the aircraft debris [...] is indeed MH370," Mr Najib told reporters.

"We now have physical evidence that [...] flight MH370 tragically ended in the southern Indian Ocean," he added.

Mr Najib said he hoped the discovery "will at least bring certainty to the families" of the victims, saying the burden they had faced was "unspeakable".

'Very strong indications'

French prosecutor Serge Mackowiak later confirmed the wing fragment, known as a flaperon, was from a Boeing 777 - the same make and model as the missing Malaysian airliner.

He said initial tests showed there were "very strong indications" that it was from flight MH370. But he said confirmation would only come after further tests on the fragment, which would begin on Thursday.

"[Investigators] will try to do it as soon as possible in order to provide total and reliable information to the family of victims, who are on our minds at the moment," Mr Mackowiak added.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-33794012>

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MH370: DISCOVERY COMMUNICATIONS (POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION)

Dear Sir / Madam,

I would like to inform you that there would be a major announcement on the recent findings of the flaperon that it was indeed from MH370. This announcement will be broadcasted over all major TV and Radio channels today, at 0145hrs (MLT) or 1745hrs (GMT).

This has been confirmed jointly by the French Authorities, Bureau d' Enquetes et d' Analyses pour la Securites de l'Aviation Civile (BEA), the Malaysian Investigation Team, Technical Representative from PRC and Australian Transportation Safety Bureau (ATSB).

Malaysia Airlines would like to sincerely convey our deepest sorrow that the object recovered off the coast of Reunion Island on 29 July was indeed from Flight MH370.

We appreciate that this must be an extremely difficult and distressing time for you and we assure you that Malaysia Airlines is here to help and provide you with more information and updates in due time.

Malaysia Airlines will continue to fully cooperate with the relevant authorities on the recovery and investigation on this incident.

You may call Malaysia Airlines' Family Support Centre (+603-8777-5770) between 0800 to 2400hrs (Malaysia Local Time) for more information or email via MH370familysupport@malaysiaairlines.com

Malaysia Airlines reiterates that it continues to be transparent in communicating with family members and the general public on all matters affecting MH370 whilst respecting the privacy of those affected at this difficult time.

Our continuing thoughts and prayers remain with you and all families of the passengers and crew of MH370.

Thank you
Post Accident Office MH370