

PRESS CONFERENCE: MH 370

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ROYALE CHULAN HOTEL, KUALA LUMPUR

SPOKESPERSON:

DATUK JALANI JOHARI

DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION AND MULTIMEDIA

ATTENDED BY :

DATUK ABDUL AZIZ KAPRAWI, DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT

DATUK ABDUL RAHIM BIN BAKRI , DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE

DATO' AZHARUDDIN ABDUL RAHMAN, DIRECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (DCA)

VICE ADMIRAL, DATUK SERI PANGLIMA AHMAD KAMARULZAMAN BIN HJ. AHMAD BADARUDDIN

Q1: Assalamualaikum, Ismail from Bernama. Ok. I have two questions. The first one, what are the progress so far from the analysis that has been done? I mean, that is currently underway by the INMARSAT and other experts. It was informed earlier that they are going, they are currently analyzing the data. Then, so far has there been any sightings by the Chinese ship which has informed carrying out the beta-metric operations. Thank you.

A: (Datuk Azharuddin) On the re-analysis of the search area, yes, the Australian experts, the team in Australia comprising of the Australian and also the Malaysian team in Canberra have done the analysis and they are now in the process of exchanging notes with INMARSAT. And we cannot tell you the result of this outcome of the meetings, discussions between the experts in Australian and INMARSAT. And one of our main aim to go to Australia tomorrow is to get more details of this progress. Thank you. And on the search, at the moment is

being done by beta-metric survey which is to survey the sea bed of the areas as indicated at the moment. So far, the analysis is being done by Australian Geoscience. So again, this is another of our agenda to go to Australia tomorrow and we should be able to know the result of this initial beta-metric survey. Thank you.

Q2: Good afternoon. I'm Keith from BFM 89.9. Well, all these are privatized, the search and would you know what sort of responds they've got so far and secondly, have you guys decided who will pay for what? What are Petronas and DRB Hicoms roles in this and what Malaysian government assets will be involved in the search from now on? Thank you.

A: (Datuk Rahim) - With regards to the Petronas and Deftech, as it is they have already come up the partnership between Petronas and Deftech and they are offering certain assets to be deployed in the area, that will be very soon. And then the second one, with regards to the cost involved, that will be carried out by JACC. JACC will tender out the services to the interested companies and so far we have not known any members participants, but then, of course, after finalizing in the next few months, then the cost is actually to be determined, and the cost be shared 50-50, 50% by Malaysia 50% by Australia.

Q3: Hello, assalamualaikum. Hilal Azmi from Astro Awani. Ok. I would like to ask this, Malaysia government is looking for any possibilities. Will Malaysia initiate any effort to conduct a search of the northern corridor to show our commitment to follow up any lead, clue of information as demanded by family members?

A: (Datuk Azharuddin) No, we have determined, the INMARSAT has determined that the aircraft ended in the Indian Ocean. And that's where our areas of search will be. And this analysis by Australian, although we cannot tell you yet because we're going tomorrow to discuss with them. Would not be very far away from where the search is going on now. Thank you.

Q4: I'm from China Central Television. My question is, I have read the news that the relatives of the passengers will plan to recruit money themselves to get the clue of the missing plane. So, I like to listen to your comments, listen to your opinions about, what it is?

A1: (Datuk Azharuddin) Yes, we heard that also from the newspaper as you heard. I think that, we leave it to them. If they want to engage, they say that they have collecting 5 millions or something like that and they want to employ investigators not technical, I think they can do so. Then, hopefully they can share their outcome of the investigations with us. Then we can discuss together. So, that's our stand now. Ok, thank you.

A2: (Datuk Jalani) I think I just want to add to that question. I think I mentioned earlier on, in my text, one of the issues that we've been discussing in China will be the issues on the next-of-kins. I think that will be one of the issues.

Q5:(not clear).....

A: (Datuk Rahim) US. As it is US already contributed the Bluefin 21 and we are also looking at certain assets. That has not being finalized yet because that would be finalized soon. One of them is actually Orion.

Q6: I, Jason from The Wall Street Journal. Can you, I'm going to ask you to clarify this. There's a report that the search area will be shifted, there's a change in the search area. Can you confirm or deny that? And secondly, just now, you mentioned cost to be shared 50-50. You are referring to the cost of.....sorry?

A: (Datuk Rahim) Tender to be up by JACC.

Q: Ok, that's to be shared between Malaysia and Australia government, right? Ok.

A: (Datuk Azharuddin) I think the first question by you, I think has been answered. We are going to Australia tomorrow and to know more about the new search area. So we still going to discuss it with Australia. So, we just cannot tell you anything yet.

Q7: Hai, Cindy from News Limited in Australia. It's now almost 100 days since the plane went missing. Can I ask how confident are you that you will actually find the plane and why are you confident of that?

A: (Datuk Azharuddin) It takes two years for the French authority to find the France 447. We are only touching 100 days and with the beta-metric survey, that we are going to do. And the deep sea search that the Australian going to contract out to a commercial entity, with Malaysian assets to be deployed together with them,

I'm sure we will get but time will tell. And as being mentioned by the Chairman just now, Datuk Seri Hishammuddin has said, the search will go on and we will do it until we find the wreckage. Thank you.

Q8: Hai, I'm Trina from Reuters. Earlier today, Datuk Seri Hishammuddin actually said that the figure was at 27.6 million, the cost that was given out by Malaysia. Do you have the total sum cost by all nations on the money that was spent on the search so far?

A: (Datuk Azharuddin) The figure 27.6 Ringgit only by the Malaysian authorities, Malaysian agencies. We do not know how much the other countries has spent because they come here, they helped us and they assist us, they are using their own fund. So, I don't think we would know how much the other nations has spent to the search of this aircraft.

Q:(not clear).....

A: (Datuk Azharuddin) I don't have the figures.

SESSION ENDS.

