

PRESS CONFERENCE: MH 370

19 APRIL 2014, SATURDAY, 2.00 PM

ROYALE CHULAN HOTEL, KUALA LUMPUR

SPOKESPERSON:

DATO' SERI HISHAMUDDIN TUN HUSSEIN

ACTING MINISTER OF TRANSPORT

ATTENDED BY :

DATO' HAMZAH ZAINUDDIN, DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

DATUK AZIZ KAPRAWI, DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT

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

AHMAD JAUHARI YAHYA, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF MAS

Q : Assalamualaikum Datuk Seri, saya Rodhihi dari Utusan Malaysia.

A : (DS Hishamuddin) Waalaikum salam.

Q : Datuk Seri, sekarang ni nampaknya Bluefin adalah harapan untuk kita mendapat apa-apa maklumat terbaru mengenai MH370. Tetapi sekiranya benar apa yang Tony Abbott katakan akan diberhentikan nanti, apakah keupayaan kita lagi untuk memastikan harapan untuk mengetahui, apa misteri ini dapat diselesaikan?

A : (DS Hishamuddin) Bluefin-21 tak akan diberhentikan malah, seperti kenyataan saya tadi, bahawa kita akan tambah lagi aset dengan kerjasama daripada pihak swasta. Di sini, syarikat DEFTECH, DRB, Boustead dan beberapa lagi syarikat di Malaysia telahpun berjumpa dan berbincang dengan rakan-rakan mereka di peringkat antrabangsa cara bagaimana kita boleh

tambah the AUVs yang untuk kita pastikan boleh membantu. Keduanya, kita dah masuk fasa sonar, active and passive sonar, which involves submersibles in which case submarine assets would be timely for us to start considering and discussing, but I must stress that the submarine based on sonar capability for search and possibly this is quite limited in field of military and that is being discussed at the military level. Walau apa pun saya telah mewujudkan satu committee khas di mana Timbalan Menteri Pertahanan telah pun diamanahkan untuk mempengerusikannya dan committee jawatankuasa ini akan memperincikan apa jua aset-aset lain yang perlu kita tengokkan dalam fasa ini.

Q : Assalamualaikum Datuk, Ismail Bernama. I have two questions. First one for Datuk Seri. Okay. So far has Australia inform the status of the four signals detected earlier? I understand the phase signal detected by P3 Orion is not related to MH370. Since there's no debris and no ice click can be related to MH370. Is there a remote possibility that the analysis by Inmarsat and AAIB is inaccurate and is there a possibility that the plane might have land somewhere else. Perhaps, up further north then south, from Southern Indian Ocean. I have another question for Datuk Azharuddin. What are the possibility that a plane presumably crashed into the ocean leaving no debris at all? Thank you.

A : (Datuk Azharuddin) We don't want to speculate here. You see your question is what is the possibility of aircraft ditching into the water, into the sea without any debris. We don't know. That's the reason why we use the locater pinger, the toad pinger locater to detect any, any detection from the black boxes and they have found four of the detection and the Australian authorities have marked the areas and they are now using the Bluefin-21 to search the area on the sea bed and we don't know for sure whether the aircraft is in one piece or.....so you do not speculate, please. We do not know until the Australian authorities or we in the future can take imagery to image of any of the wreckage of the aircraft on the sea bed, that something we have to do and we going to do it and Insya Allah we will find it.

A (Hishamuddin) The latest signals from the P3 Orion is exactly the point when we state and that has always be the Malaysia's position that any information that we received must be verified and corroborated. I can confirm that the information from the P3 Orion, the latest was a leak and it wasted a lot of time overnight trying to identify it and it was found to be negative. So it is very important that people do not speculate and based on the information that has not been verified and corroborated. With regards to the location, today and tomorrow is imperative that we focus because the JACC and all the experts have narrowed the area of search to what we are looking at today and

tomorrow. And as what Prime Minister Tony Abbott said and I totally agreed with him. "Whatever the outcome of the next few days, we need to re-group and re-consider the operations, it doesn't mean that we are going to stop the operations but that will go directly to your question, Ismail, regarding as whether we have to re-look again on the data, whether it is the satellite, Inmarsat, whether it is radar, whether it is the ping locator, whether it is other information that we have received from all these 26 countries that are assisting us.

Q : Datuk Seri, Salina dari TV3. Datuk Seri, saya nak tanya. Apakah agaknya pembentangan yang akan diberikan oleh Ahli Jawatankuasa pada Sidang Kabinet yang akan datang. Nak tahu butiran pembentanganlah kalau boleh. Dan kedua, kalau boleh Datuk Seri komen sikit mengenai Nancy Shukri yang pernah beritahu baru-baru ini bahawa yang Malaysia berikrar tidak akan menyerahkan hak melindungi dan menyiasat kotak hitam MH370 sekiranya ditemui. Tolong komen sikit mengenai tu?

A : (DS Hishamuddin) Kedua-dua perkara itu di bawah tanggungjawab Jawatankuasa Teknikal yang mungkin Datuk Aziz can say a few words regarding it.

A : (Datuk Aziz) Pada dasarnya, regarding to the investigation, international investigation team, we have drafted the proposal and we will submit to the government, to the Cabinet this Wednesday and we also proposed that team and we are sure to form the team is a independent team of investigators which is not only competent and transparent but also highly credible. So this team is divided into three groups, that is the one the airworthiness that covers the maintenance records, structures and system but also the operations that will look into the flight operations also flight recorders. And the third one is the human factor. That's all.

Q : Hai Datuk Seri. I'm Jun Lin from Malaysiakini. According to an expert team Malaysia should have jurisdiction over the black box but at the same time the team document also states that it should rapped out as soon as possible without delay and also that if the state handling the investigation has no the ability to the necessary forensic and should by the state who does. So what are your comments that how this play out and does Malaysia has the necessary facilities?

A : (DS Hishamuddin) We have to deal with it on the technical aspect, the expertise available out there to analyse the data with in the black box. We have to deal with it on the diplomatic channel because it involves 14 countries and nationals but at the end of the day what is more important is to find the black box first.

Q : Datuk Seri, I'm Tan from Guang Ming. Nak tanya apakah kandungan MoU yang disain between Malaysia dengan Australia?

A : (Datuk Azharuddin) The framework agreement antara Malaysia dengan Australia adalah satu..... is understanding, it's agreement between the two states to how to deal with the wreckage, the black box and also the human remains if we are able to locate it. So, we are unable to tell you in detail because this will be a discussion, agreement to be agreed upon and signed between the two states. Until such time, we are unable to give you details and once we have agreed with the Australian and we have sort out the details we should be able to give the details to the media. Thank You.

A : (DS Hishamuddin) I've spoken to Angus Houston with regards to the possibility of making sure that whatever arrangement that we have with Australia, it is with consultation of all our international partners in the search, so diplomatic channels will have to be used and like I said when we move on to the next phase and whatever arrangement with Australia as we have done in the last how many weeks, we do that without any agenda, without any problems and its quite a seamless approach and that I believe it's a testimony of the working, understanding that we have all our friends and partners in the SAR.

Q : Assalamualaikum Datuk Seri. Ida from Malay Mail. Just want to know, how confident are you that the search team is closing in finding the aircraft?,

A : (DS Hishamuddin) Oooo.....difficult to say. But at the moment, it is important to focus on today and tomorrow. Based on my discussion with the JACC, specifically with Angus Houston, the narrowing of the search for today and tomorrow is at a very critical juncture. So I appeal to everybody around the world to pray and pray hard that we find something to accond over the next couple of days.

Q (CBS News) : There's still some confusion among the relatives that I've been speaking to about the cell phone ping that apparently was picked up by one of the cell phone towers, from the co-pilot's telephone. Can you tell us what you know about that, the American said it wasn't a call, it just a communication between the phone and perhaps explain how you think it could be only his phone or there were other phone pinging the towers. That's the first question. Secondly, is your investigation at this time suggesting catastrophic mechanical failure as a cause of

the disappearance or some of sort human intervention, are you favouring one over the other as investigation goes forward?

A (HH) : Personally, the second question I think it's too early to conclude that. And on the first one, I'm personally not aware on any information regarding the phones. I don't know about, you all have any indication?

A (DCA) : The second question we are rule up any possibility. We don't want speculate any possibilities on this accident, we are not going to erm we don't, we don't have any theories stronger than the others, we have to find the black box. We have to find the black box and analyse the black box to know exactly what actually happens to the aircraft. And on your first question, we don't have any reports of any calls been made from the(not clear because reporter suddenly asking something)

Q : (not clear) that came from the National Transportation Safety Board America means not a rumour. This is something official. You read the same paper as I do, you've got to read that. Are you aware of it?

A (HH) : But that's a third party report. Whatever it is, we'll use the chance to check on that. Thank you.

Q (Wall Street Journal): As you said in your opening statement, it's been 6 weeks now since the plane went down. I'm wondering what point will you release a route map showing the flight of the plane and the altitude at different points. And secondly, does the unwillingness to release this basic kind of information contribute to public sentiment reflected in a recent poll showing only 26% Malaysians think the government is telling the truth about the plane.

A (HH) : I think that is not true. The support that has been coming around from around the world, and I just had a defense exhibition and I met all the leaders from so many countries and they are saying this is unprecedented situation and they believed that what we have done is something that no country out there is actually experience. So how you going bench mark that as far as our performance

is concerned. That is purely speculative and it is irresponsible and it does not represent the majority of the views out there. People want us to continue, we have done so with the friends all around the world. There is a small group of people that maybe cynical about how we are going to go forward but the truth will always prevail. We have nothing to hide and the committees that we established whether it is international investigation team that we have established, 3 ministerial teams. Those will be the right structure for us to address the issues that you have raised so that there won't be speculation further questions be raised to even make the water more (not clear).

Q (CNN) : I just want to question directed to MAS actually. How many ELTs were fitted on MH370 and are there any other ideas on why there's been no signals coming from the ELTs so far.

A (MAS) : I think that question was answered many many weeks ago. The aircraft equipped with normal numbers of ELTs that is four and why it didn't, we didn't pick up, I think we don't know. That's the truth.

Q (Channel News Asia) : Dato's Seri, earlier you are talking about after the final Bluefin search next week, (not clear) that official to be meeting again and discuss about the INMARSAT data. Do we have a date when will this meeting would take place and will you be going to Australia to participate?

A (HH) : Yes. Like I said, this today and tomorrow is quite important for us to find out more details because all the effort has been focused in the area that has been identified. By Monday, I think we'll be in better position to see what needs to be done and this is at the very highest level, both the two Prime Ministers discussing on timelines and I indicated to Angus Houston that whatever decision that needs to be made and whatever announcement we are going to make, I hope to be by his side when he makes it. But even before that happens, on

regards, with regards to the three committees that has been set up, there is a technical the next-of-kin or the deployment of assets, they are going to make certain trips to Australia in the next few days. I can confirmed that Hamzah's team, Hamzah himself would be down to Perth next week and Angus Houston has informed me that they looking forward to discussing further on preparations with regards to the families of the passengers. Just one more.

Q : I just want to ask you minister about the third committee that you mentioned, I think was acid deployment and given that clearly the pain seem to be coming from extreme debts. Is there the technology or is there invasion available to continue that realistically on the technical front beyond this week for example. So ermm aside from the commitment that you express there, is there actually the technical infrastructure to support that given what you know from the committee also by the private (not clear because HH started to gives his respond)

A (HH) : Yeah. From what I discovered and I need to rely on the experience on Air France 447, and Jean Paul Troadec's own experience where the signal from that black box expired way before the two year period in which to discover the black box and they moved from the ping locator to sonar technology, from vessels airplanes to underwater even deep-sea vessels and that as I alluded to in my statement just now, requires the cooperation of commercial entities especially oil companies involving with deep-sea Ricks and that is exactly what we have been doing in the last few days. Getting Malaysian companies who have got partners internationally to identify their assets as required based on the advice by the French team and with that technology, hopefully when we move on to the next phase, the assets are already available and you will be different from what is already in their site area. But as for today and tomorrow, we'll use the assets that are already available there and let's pray that something positive comes out. What is happening right now and if that happens then that planning which I indicated to you James may not be required. Thank you very much.

Session ends.