

**PRESS CONFERENCE: MH 370**  
**23 APRIL 2014, WEDNESDAY , 6.00 PM**  
**ROYALE CHULAN HOTEL, KUALA LUMPUR**

**SPOKESPERSON:**

**DATO' SERI HISHAMMUDDIN TUN HUSSEIN**  
**ACTING MINISTER OF TRANSPORT**

**ATTENDED BY :**

**DATUK AZIZ KAPRAWI, DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT**

**DATUK ABDUL RAHIM BAKRI, DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE**

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

**AHMAD JAUHARI YAHYA, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF MAS**

**Q1** : Assalamualaikum Dato', Ismail from Bernama. I have two questions. First question, you mentioned the Bluefin-21 operation .....(not clear)..... Australia.....(not clear) So is there .....(not clear).....stop the operation.....(not clear) . Second question, when will the SAR operation be re-grouped and re-considered as mentioned previously?

**A** : (HH) Yes, the question came from the Prime Minister Abbott where we need to re-group and re-strategize but not immediately. We still have the 20 percent the area that has to be covered by the Bluefin-21 and I can confirm that, infact we are increasing the assets that are available for the deep sea search. My...was a bit late for the PC because I was in consultation with Petronas because that involves commercial ventures and in the next few days we'll be talking to other entities to look at possibly of increasing the assets for the next phase. The time line I have to discuss with Angus Houston but it will not be in the next few days. What is more important is that the search continues and this is an assurance that we will give to the families of the passengers.

Q2 :Assalamualaikum Dato' Seri. Mohd Hafizah dari Berita Harian. Soalan pertama saya Dato' Seri, ada surat yang dihantar dari keluarga penumpang yang minta siasatan dipanjangkan hingga ke Kandahar. Ada Dato' Seri terima surat? Ada report mengatakan untuk diperluaskan kawasan siasatan ke kawasan lain.

A : (HH) Saya secara peribadi tak ada terima surat berkenaan, tapi.....

Q2 :Okay. Soalan seterusnya Dato' Seri, macam mana dengan keputusan pengumuman untuk memberitahu keluarga penumpang berhubung kematian seperti yang diumumkan Dato' Hamzah sebelum ini. Adakah akan diteruskan, fasal banyak bantangan dari keluarga mangsa especially cakap dia orang tak setuju.

A : (HH) Kita punya hubungan dengan keluarga penumpang berterusan. Dan hari Ahad lalu, Dato' Hamzah dan Jawatankuasanya telah berjumpa dengan keluarga penumpang Malaysia dan hari ini berada di Beijing bersama-sama dengan keluarga mereka di sana. Dan baru saya menghubungi Dato' Hamzah dan usaha ini akan berterusan supaya keluarga penumpang-penumpang itu sentiasa berada dalam keadaan dimaklumkan perkembangan yang terkini. Sebab itu saya menyatakan tadi bahawa dalam usaha kita nak meneruskan pencarian ini jangan dengar spekulasi bahawa SAR akan dihentikan kerana apa yang kita lakukan sekarang ialah untuk perhebatkan lagi sebenarnya aset-aset tetapi lebih fokus kepada tumpuan untuk carian di bawah lautan dalam dan ini memerlukan aset-aset yang agak spesifik dan aset itulah yang sedang dikenal pasti dan mereka yang mempunyai aset berkenaan telah pun dihubungi.

Q2 : Terima kasih Dato' Seri.

Q3 : Good evening Dato' Seri, .....Malay Mail Online. Could you elaborate a little bit on the team. How many members are we looking at and have you notified your counterparts in ASEAN. What kind of expertise we are looking at? Thank you.

A : (HH) As far as the panel of experts are concerned, the first priority is to get the memorandum approved by the Cabinet which I did this morning. DatukAziz boleh elaborate on the membership of the committee but as far as ASEAN is concerned, we need to consult the countries that may contribute directly to the investigation. One example, would be tried to negotiate with Singapore because of their Silk Air experience and that's a sort of approach which I feel makes the

panel more credible, more transparent and more effective. On the membership, Datuk.....

: (Datuk Aziz) Ya, basically we have some names with me but we have to verify, after that we will issue appointments by end of next week. And it comprise of three groups, that is, the airworthiness. Second is the operations and the third one is human factor. So, after issuance of appointments I believe, the following week they can start the investigations.

Q4 : Datuk Seri, I'm from Xinhua New Agency.

A : (HH) Hi!.

Q4 : Hai!. My question is, New Straits Times reports that the investigation teams had taken up into account that the plane has landed somewhere instead of ending in South Indian Ocean. So do you have any comment on this report?

A : (HH) No. As far as landing is concerned, even at the beginning of the search, there was speculation about the plane safely landing in Nanning, which was not true. So, basically we stuck to our template, any leads would be followup but it will only announce if it is verified and corroborated.

Q4 : Thank you.

A : (HH) Thank you.

Q5 : Hai!, I'm Jason from Wall Street Journal, Actually I have two questions. Number one is that, can you elaborate about the MoU that you were supposed to sign with Australia, that's one. Secondly, apparently the Australia has recovered floating objects on one of their beach. Can you elaborate on that and finally, the families requested that the government look at the possibility that they mentioned just now, the plane might have been in Kandahar, Afghanistan, sighting Russian newspapers. So can respond on that?

A : (HH) I think the third one is a round of speculation again. I will not answer unless it is being verified and corroborated. As far as the understanding with the Joint Agency Coordination Center, I do get reports on the daily basis and the MoU, the understanding really regards first to the time line and the re-grouping and also the re-strategizing. It doesn't talk about stopping the search at all but focusing on, for example, the visual air surface search, that it's still relevant

relating to the debris that you mentioned earlier, or the underwater search. I'm not in a position yet to announce it but on discussion with Angus Houston, we will do so jointly.

Q6 : (Richard Quest from CNN) .... (not clear) to follow the ICAO procedures and protocols closely. So you'll be familiar with the requirement of preliminary report and section 7 and has such a report being compiled and sent to ICAO, if it has, will you release it and if it hasn't, when do you expect to send it?

A : (DCA) Thank you Mr Richard Quest. Yes we have issued the preliminary report and we have sent it to the ICAO. We have not make any decision yet to release it to the media or to the public.

Q : (Richard Quest) follow up please sir, I mean. It's quite unusual not to release the preliminary report in such a fashion. I can remember too many cases where preliminary hasn't been release within affair timescale.

A : (DCA) Yeah, we released it within a month as required ICAO. We have sent it to ICAO. No, it's not publicly yet.

Q7: (Channel Seven Australia) I just like to maybe talk a little bit more about the wreckage, something that's been found by the west Australian police. They said that they sent photos on to the JACC and JACC said that you got the photos. Can you describe what's the photos look like.

A : (DCA) We have not got any photos that sent by JACC but so far all the objects have been sighted by the aircraft and picked up by the ships are not related to MH370.

Q8 : (CCTV) We understand that Dato' Hamzah in Beijing now. May I know that he was stay .... (not clear) in Beijing and how's the discussion between committee and the family in Beijing. And the second question, how soon Dato' Seri will going to Perth. Thanks.

A : (HH) When I'm going to Perth will depend very much on the MOU that agreement that we are discussing with Angus Houston and I would personally like to be there when we actually move on to the next phase if need be. But we need to get through the 20% area first and that's going to be done in the next few days. The delay two days because of weather. Secondly on the NOC's, as I

said Hamzah still in Beijing. I have not got full report but speaking to him just now seems to be under control.

Q9 : (Wall Street Journal) Is the information of the new investigative committee that you announced today an acknowledgement that the original investigation is stalled that's there's a need to start over.

A : (HH) No. It's just an opportunity for all the experts that they've gathered here to actually look at what we are going through and see how that relates to the aviation landscape for the future. In fact I mentioned to Malaysia cabinet this morning that we had no problem getting people to agree to come on board because everybody want to go, to be part of this unprecedented incident. Now we've got NTSB from the US, you got AIB from the UK, you got CACC from China, you got BA from France, Boeing, Rolls Royce. These are all experts that I hear are all interested to see how things are unfold and basically that experts committee also give assurance to the people out there that Malaysia got nothing to hide and at the end of the day, the truth will prevail.

Q : (not clear because not using the mic)

A : (HH) No. Whatever investigation that we have done earlier will be reported to this team independent experts. So then they can judge, so there won't be any preconceived or speculative elements because what we want is an independent assessment or whatever inquiries had been done before.

Q10 : (Channel News Asia) First, I'm sorry to ask this again but regards to JACC statement that we just received, it says that police have attended a report of material washed ashore 10 kilometers east of Augusta and secured the material. I believed that what you've asked about earlier. Can you confirm that you received those reports and secondly Dato' Hishammuddin, I wanted to ask New Straits Time also reported that investigation will be looking the possibility that the satellite data initially .....(not clear) could be wrong and that the plane might not ..... (not clear). Could you comment on this.

A : (HH) Well on the satellite data, like I said when I assume and I do not speak for the Prime Minister Australia and when we have to re-group and re-strategize, it's a matter of looking at all the data. Whether it is satellite, whether it is radar and that is very important as we chart our next course and the experience by the Silk

air crash and the fact that Jean Paul Troadec will be in town next week with a two year time frame which they took to find the black box for the Air France crash. Those are the sort of things that we will be looking at in identifying the possibility of other locations but that will be part and .... (not clear) for the whole work in progress.

: (DCA) Yes, we have received the report from Australian ATSB of the plastic sheet that was ashore but that's not been verified yet as part of the aircraft. Yes been received the report but we have not received any verification, any confirmation that is part of the MH370.

Q11 : (Bloomberg) None of the reports or the investigations would be made public at this moment. Will you all eventually make this all public?

A : (HH) Definitely. I think with the public interest globally, I think there's no worry that we can avoid from making it public but from a credible, transparent and also independent source and that is why the panel of experts that we have assembled and approved provided the Aziz's meets the appointments next week, they will then be in a position to indicate when it would be made public but the inquiries that been going on, the investigation that been carried on, the whole journey from the first lead that we received all that would be taken into account during then inquiry.

Q : How much is the SAR's operation cost Malaysia so far?

A : (HH) I have not, again I keep repeating I have not seen the dollars and cents and basically as we move on to the next phase. I'm also very happy to know that countries that would not be able to participate in the earlier search are now coming forward to help us with the next phase. This requires deep-sea assets, this requires more probably Blue Fin 21, this requires probably submersible that would be very very expensive but again I'm heightened by the fact that this interested in coming on board and this is what we've been doing in the last few days and only a few hours ago I'm dealing with Petronas and they had no hesitation at all and did not talk about dollars and cents in trying to find MH in the search.

**Session ends.**