

**PRESS CONFERENCE: MH 370**

**7 APRIL 2014, MONDAY, 5.30 PM**

**ROYALE CHULAN HOTEL, KUALA LUMPUR**

**SPOKESPERSON:**

**DATO' SERI HISHAMMUDDIN TUN HUSSEIN**

**ACTING MINISTER OF TRANSPORT**

**ATTENDED BY :**

**DATO' HAMZAH ZAINUDDIN, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER**

**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** : (Berita Harian) Penemuan signal terbaru yang dikesan tu memberikan harapan yang positif kepada kita. Soalan saya, how realible are these signals then, from the briefing you have been getting how confidence you are that we will conclude this search with the positive result.

**A** :Unless corroborated and verified, we are been through a real roller coster ride based on leads that we are received. But as usual, some leads much more positive than others. Speaking to Angus Houston earlier today, i am more

optimistic than some of the leads that we had. So, i would like everybody to continue to pray and this is something that much more positive than others but yet i'm very cautious about saying anymore than that.

Q2 : (BERNAMA) Should the black box recoverd from the aircraft, who will have the ownership over the black box and who will lead the investigation of the black box?

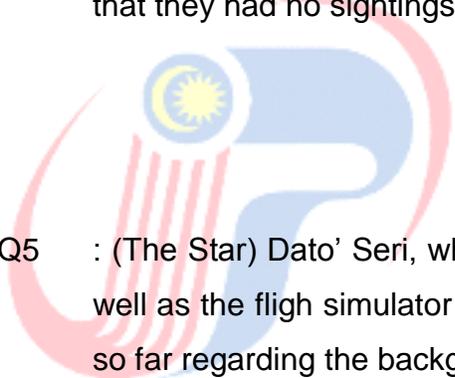
A : Ismail, I've spoken to the Attorney General this morning. We will follow ACAO practicers and we will inform development in respect of investigation based on whatever we find in due cost. But our focus right now is to find the black box first.

Q3 :(Awani) Regarding the ping detected, it's detected in the loneliest place on earth. So what else could it beif it's not belongs to the MH370 and since also it consistent with the frequency, is there any possibility could be anything else but the black box and also secondly, is there possibility the plane landed on the water in one piece, giving a few minutes to actually probably defate the lifeboat and also , is this the SARS operation also focusing on looking for the survivors on the crafts, not just focusing looking for the black box.

A : I will only answer the part about the survivors because the others all speculative and very technical whether it could be other signal from other objects apart from the black box. We will know in due time. As far as the survivors are concern, thats always been our priority and i've said that over and over again, but the leads that we have received either from satellite images or from othe sightings did not indicated or show survivors but i've always said especially to the families, miracles do happen and if we are still hoping against hope, we will continue hope and pray for survivors.

Q4 : (Malay Mail) Could you confirm CNN's report quoting senior Malaysian government officer that MH370 actually circuted around Indonesia airspace before meet the journey to the Southern Indian Ocean. Apparently, theres taken a root that design to avoid the radar detection and also back to Berita Harian question just now on the black box, of Australia manage to recover the black box, you are saying you are not sure yet Malaysia gonna take over the investigation or Australia?

A :I said that it depends on the international practicers and we will go back to ACAO on that and regards to the radar, it's untrue. I've got the Chief of Defence Force Malaysia to contact counterpart with Indonesia and they have confirmed that they had no sightings of the plane.



Q5 : (The Star) Dato' Seri, what is the status of the investigation of the two pilots as well as the fligh simulator that has been seized and has the police has any leads so far regarding the background check the crew and the passengers?

A : No change from the last indication on that.

Q6: When will the families will be taken to Perth if in case ..... (not clear) finding the black box, how soon they will be taken?

A: (Hamzah) We are not so sure about the dateline at the moment. What we are looking at is the wreakage. Once we find, then we will decide, from that day onwards we'll give certain date to bring all these next of kins to Perth to a

minimum days which we will decide also later, we'll announce it as soon as we set up these dateline and also the time for the next of kins to be send to Perth.

Q7: (CCTv China) Is there any new information we can get from this new data and ..... (not clear) about the aircraft or ..... (not clear). Thank you.

A: (DCA) The area where the Ocean Shield and Hixun is operating now searching for the pinging or detection pf the black box are taken to this last handshake at 8.19. That's been taken to consideration. Thank you.

Q8: (Sky News) In ..... (not clear) of the last development, have any of the families express a specific desire to go to Perth.

A: (Hamzah) This is we are doing at this moment, to identify the real next of kins. At this moment who have a number of next of kins. We have almost like five six hundreds people, we are making sure to identify one by one to get the power attorney to the next move because we are very unsure at this whether we still, we get bodies and wreckage and sort of things. Depending on that we will decide later. Thank you.

Q9 : .....Wall Street Journal. So, I want a clarification, one small clarification first and then question. Twice this evening you mentioned ECAO, are you talking about ICAO?

A : (HH) YA, ICAO, ya, thank you so much for clarifying us.

Q10 : The question that I have, all the experts are.....(not clear)... , if you noticed the Australian PC this morning by the .....(not clear)....., everybody seems to convince that the aircraft is lost and no survivors. For the processes to start, you

know, because all the families have banking issues, insurance issues, what stage Malaysia come out and say, ok, we accept that the aircraft has lost and there could be no survivors?

A : (HH) I'm aware of all those issues that have been mentioned and our discussion with the families have indicated many requests, some conflicting, some do not want to speak about claims or insurance or otherwise, or bank accounts have been frozen, but the others who want to have more details about what happened in the events that we do have some signals from the black box. It's a very fine line that we're walking and so far it is, we have done that, walk to that very fine line. It really depends very much on how we move forward on deciding on the time line and how the families cope with the situation. Right now, the focus is on the new lead that we have and this is something very positive and this is something that is on going, as we speak. I really do hope that we find something concrete out of this, that matters that you've asked for just now could be implemented. Nevertheless, parallel to our search and rescue we have formed committees, we have formed ministerial committees, we have formed international enquiries, we have linked up with the international agencies. AIB, NTSB, BEA of France and also the CAAC the Civil Aviation Administration of China and the AAID Accident Investigation Department in China, have all come on board. So all these agencies and committees have been set up in the event that we do trigger of what need to be done as asked by you but the actual time line, I personally would like to engage the families to see what would be the best time for us to do that, but I feel to be fair to them, the finding, debris, survivors if at all, and the black box would be a very significant point in time as far as time line goes.

Q11 : Datuk Seri, good evening. I'm Megomi, Japan Business Press. Malaysia authority has been ....(not clear)....the world that you continue to search as long as it takes. However, in terms of the case of the Air France 447, they only took place.....(not clear)...from the beginning due to the cost, in fact.....

A : Question by HH: Which one? Sorry?

Q12 : Air France 447, the search first, they took place for one month is temporarily closed because of the cost and later on they start again next year for a year. Actually, who exactly bearing the cost for the international search? Is it Malaysia government or Malaysia Airlines? In fact, the financial status of Malaysia government and Malaysia Airlines has quite severe. Malaysia government at actually 53% of the GDP and then Malaysia Airlines, the deficit of 2013 has been at 1.2 billion Ringgit, has actually 3 years consecutively, the deficit. Who exactly is bearing? And secondly, as the CEO of Malaysia Airlines, have passes one month already, how do you see this tragedy affected your airlines not only financially but also on the basis of the reputation of the airlines and do you intend to resign because of that scenario? Thank you very much.

A : (AJ) First of foremost,, obviously this incident has affected the airlines but the investigation is still on going. We have a lot of work to do, ok. The airlines obviously need to get itself together. If you noticed, experience other airlines, it takes them about 6 months to recover from what do you called a market reputation issue and we intend to do that, we intend to do that quicker. As far as my own personal position, I work to do that.

A : (HH) If you speak to Jean-Paul Troadec, who was the Head of the French Investigation Team, he will be the first to say that they didn't stop after 2 months, it took 2 years before they found the black box. And we're working very closely with Jean Troadec to see how, what we need to do to go that distance. Even this morning, during the bilateral between the two Prime Ministers of Singapore and Malaysia, there were new information and offer cooperation. With regards to what Singapore went through with the Silk Air MI 185, so as we go along, I think there'll be so many, more people who are come forward to assist us and I working very closely with Minister Lee of Singapore, to see what they actually did

with the Silk Air crash. And they have no hesitation and definitely they are not talking about dollar and cents when looking for the aircraft.

Q13 : Thank you for taking my question. Joe John from CNN. The location of the pulse detected by the Haixun 1 seems to be about 650 kilometer from the location of Ocean Shield find. How do you count for that? Chinese aircraft also photographed objects over the last days also, is it the only reason to believe that it has to do with the plane?

A : (HH) It doesn't matter, as long as we find it. And I think both locations whether it is found by the Chinese vessel or the signals that came from the Australian Ocean Shield, the main point is to make sure that every possible asset that is able to identify those signals and those signals belongs to MH370, it becomes established. So, it doesn't matter whether we need to say that, its so different because we've not found the black box yet.

Q14 : Christine from ADC New York. I have two questions. First is, when we last spoke, I asked you about that .....(not clear)..... the airplane has taken .....(not clear)....and the families have been shown slides and some documents have been presented showing that the plane headed in westerly direction and it did a little zig zag and ...(not clear)... North and then turn back south. Can you confirm now whether that was indeed the direction of the airplane and my second question is, most accident investigation usually involved one or two investigation bodies. You mentioned just now 5, is there a reason why Malaysia takes the input of so many investigation agencies would be beneficial? In America, we would say that trying to design a horse by committee. What would you benefited from that?

A : (HH) Well, I just quote PM Abbott when he said that this is the most difficult search in human history. It means it's unprecedented. Its never been done before. So, no matter how many agencies it takes and what we do benchmarking against? What we have now, the more experts we have the better in a situation where this is so unprecedented and that quote came from Australia not from Malaysia. And as far as the route that you mentioned, that question was actually answered by Datuk Azhar two PCs ago. Thank you ladies and gentlemen.

**Session ends**

