

PRESS CONFERENCE : MH 370
14 MARCH 2014, FRIDAY, 5.30 PM

SPOKEPERSON

**DATUK SERI HISHAMMUDDIN TUN HUSSEIN (ACTING MINISTER OF
TRANSPORT)**

ATTENDED BY :

DATO' AZHARUDDIN ABDUL RAHMAN (DG DCA)
AHMAD JAUHARI YAHYA (CEO MAS)

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim, as stated earlier we are now entering the seventh day of the search for MH370. There are currently 57 ships and 48 aircraft in the search. Thirteen countries are now involved.

Our priority remains finding the plane. We are following all leads, and we continue to work closely with our international partners. We are grateful for the support of our friends and neighbours, who continue to assist us by sharing their data and their resources as we search for MH370. I speak for the Malaysian people when I say that our hearts are with the families and the friends of those on board the plane.

Ladies and gentlemen,

There has been a lot of media speculation today after comments from unnamed US officials suggested the plane may have travelled for some time after losing contact. As is standard procedure, the investigation team will not publicly release information until it has been properly verified and corroborated with the relevant authorities. Nor do we want to be drawn into specific remarks that unnamed officials have reportedly made in the media. Since Sunday, we have worked closely with our international partners, including the US team, whose officials have been here on the ground in Kuala Lumpur.

Since Wednesday, the Malaysian investigating team have shared more detailed information, as it became available, for verification. The international team are currently working on verifying that detailed information, but we have nothing to confirm at this moment.

Widening of the investigation

The aircraft is still missing, and the search area is expanding. Two days ago, the search area was widened to include the Andaman Sea. Together with our international partners, we are now pushing further east into the South China Sea, and further into the Indian Ocean.

We want nothing more than to find the plane as quickly as possible. But the circumstances have forced us to widen our search. A normal investigation becomes narrower with time I understand, as new information focuses the search. But this is not a normal investigation. In this case, the information we have forces us to look further and further afield.

Engine data

Yesterday, we rejected a media report in which unnamed officials said that engine data showed the plane had kept flying for hours after last contact. We checked with Boeing and Rolls Royce, who said the reports were not true. Today Rolls Royce released a statement saying, and I quote, 'Rolls Royce continues to provide its full support to the authorities and Malaysia Airlines. Rolls Royce concurs with the statement made on Thursday 13th March by Malaysia's Transport Minister regarding engine health monitoring data received from the aircraft'.

Oil slick

Yesterday authorities sighted two oil slicks in the South China Sea, 60 nautical miles south of the last point of contact with MH370. The first slick was investigated and analysed and found to contain tiny traces of jet fuel. No debris was found in the vicinity. We do not believe the slick is linked to MH370.

Samples from the second slick were investigated and analysed and did not contain any jet fuel. The investigation team is following all leads that could help locate the missing aircraft. When we receive new information, and it has been verified, we act accordingly. Wherever there is a possibility, we have a duty to investigate it.

From the beginning of the crisis, we have worked hand-in-hand with all the relevant authorities, including international agencies, experts, and the aircraft manufacturers. We have daily technical meetings with all the key players. We have followed the protocols set out by the International Civil Aviation Authority. We have been in regular contact with our neighbouring countries. And we have welcomed all international offers of assistance. We are committed to one aim which is to find MH370.

Q :From RTM

Penyiasat dapat mengesan isyarat MH370 seperti yang dikeluarkan dalam Twitter BBC. Mohon confirmation. Second, radar tentera dikatakan telah mengesan jet lain yang dikatakan terbang melalui Semenanjung Malaysia ke arah Kepulauan Andaman.

A :Let me answer the second part of the question and Dato' Azhar will answer the first question. As regards for the air turnback, it was very clear that when the Chief of Air Force indicated on Saturday, if I'm not mistaken, though there is information of air turnback, it was not 100% identified to be MH370. And that is why we have expanded our search to the Straits of Malacca and now further on as I said on my statement, that has not changed.

A :On the first question. We are now working very closely with our team from US to get whatever information of satellite in the US. We are working that to determinewhereabouts of the aircraft. We cannot reveal the information right now because it is still under investigation. And also this evening, the team from the Aircraft Accident Investigation Board from the UK and experts from Rolls Royce have arrived. They have indicated they are studying the possibility of satellite communication whatever they have and will share it with us and we are doing that investigation right now. So we cannot reveal it again until we

have verified thoroughly and confirm the possibility of whereabouts of the aircraft. Thank you.

Q :Berkaitan dengan kerajaan negeri China yang meminta bantuan dengan Pertubuhan Piagam Antarabangsa Angkasa (not very clear)

A :Maaf saya tidak terima berita tersebut jadi saya tidak boleh menjawabnya.

Q :Dato' Sri, it was reported that Malaysia signed the International Aviation Safety but did not.... upon the incident. Is it true that we signed it? If it's true, now with the current situation that we have, it should have been involved and allowed the experts from the US and China to lead the search and rescue...?

A :Under the protocols of International Civil Aviation Organisation, the state of occurrence to lead the accident investigation. In this case, we still categorise the incident as missing aircrafts. And it says in the Acts 13 (not sure) if the missing aircraft's location cannot be determined, the state of register have to carry out investigation to find out whereabouts of the aircraft. In this case, the state of registration is Malaysia. We are following strictly to the protocol of International Civil Aviation Organization. Thank you.

Q : You have mentioned earlier that we are expanding the search into two areas, South China Sea and Andaman Sea? Are we expanding it to the Indian Ocean? Can you please confirm that there is no hijacking involved?

A : I cannot confirm whether there is no hijacking involved like I said from the start. We have been very consistent, we are looking at all possibilities. As regards moving on to the Straits of Malacca and Andaman Sea, like I said, we have to confirm that the primary military radar actually identifies that is MH370.

Q : Have you approached any other airlines that encountered similar incident, Air France maybe? Just to get the experience of the missing aircraft?

A :We welcome all assistance. In this case I think, the fact that we lost contact with the aircraft, and we don't know whereabouts of the aircraft, except for the what Air Force have provided that is to be corroborated. So I don't think we can make a comparison until we find the aircraft.

A :This is where I like to stress, our focus must be to find the aircraft and hopefully the black box. Because that will help us look further ahead and what sort of cooperation that we need, especially on the Air France crash. Took some time to recover and get more details

Q : (NOT CLEAR)

A : Like I said, that is crucial. I'll be the most happiest person if we can actually confirm that is MH370 because then only we can move our assets from the South China Sea to the Straits of Malacca. At the moment I'm not in the position to do that.

Q : Dato' Seri, these reports from the US Government Officials, they said, they receive this information from Malaysian counterparts, that's how they came out with this speculation.

A :Unless they come out with the more specific who, I don't think should entertain that sort of question or speculation from anybody.

Q : Did the satellite receive anything after it lost contact with the control tower?

A :the satellite does not receive any distress signal from the aircraft. The electronic? What the US team are doing is they are trying their best to get whatever sources from their satellite system to come out with a possibility of where the aircraft should be.

A :As I indicated yesterday, we are now sharing information that we don't normally share because of national security with agencies that could assist us. This new information or the ability of these information in our hands, is shared to the experts are now being digested. I hope within couple of days they could come with some conclusive position on what you've asked earlier. And that I will immediately inform the media.

Q : Question is not clear

A : And I think we have answered earlier and I will give you the timeline when we finalize it.

Q : Question is not clear

A : Setakat hari ini yang kita tahu bahawa transponder itu tidak mengeluarkan apa-apa signal kepada kita. Samada ia ditutup secara sengaja atau mungkin ada lain-lain kemungkinan itu sedang disiasat.

A : Kita tidak boleh mengesahkannya sekarang, saya tidak ada maklumat.

Q : Hari ini masuk hari ke 7, seminggu operasi mencari nampaknya tidak ada sebarang perkembangan yang positif daripada Dato' Seri. Saya nak mintak respon daripada Dato' Seri, macam mana dari segi peribadi, adakah masih ada harapan lagi, adakah akan diteruskan usaha mencari, sampai bila? Dan kepada Tn Johari, bagaimana dari segi moral di kalangan staff MAS sekarang ini bila melihat rakan-rakan yang masih tidak dapat dikesan.

Q : Question is not clear

A : Kita lihat tengahari tadi di mana YAB Perdana Menteri sendiri semayang Jumaat dan semayang hajat dan saya terharu dengan bagaimana masyarakat kita dan sokongan daripada dunia membantu kita dalam usaha untuk mencari dan menyelamatkan. MEmanglah setiap hari bila berlalu kemungkinan untuk kita nak teruskan usaha menyelamatkan, semakin tipis tetapi usaha kita untuk mencari seperti saya nyatakan kita tidak akan toleh ke belakang, kita akan terus. Sebab itu saya nyatakan tadi bahawa kawasan yang kita tengah mencari sekarang diperluaskan. Saya memang rasa begitu terharu dan susah kadang-kala nak berdepan dengan keluarga yang terlibat, lebih-lebih lagi kita tidak mempunyai maklumat-maklumat dan perkembangan yang boleh kita maklumkan kepada mereka. Tetapi saya secara peribadi, dari semangat yang saya terima untuk berdepan dengan satu cabaran yang sangat besar. Yang pertamanya sokongan daripada rakyat Malaysia, daripada pelbagai lapisan masyarakat, tak kira warna kulit, umur, agama untuk membantu kita. Keduanya, saya tengok tak pernah dalam sejarah kita melihat beberapa Negara sanggup bersama-sama dengan kita. Hari ini sahaja 13, there are 13

countries that are working with us. The equipments that had been forwarded to us is very sophisticated. And there are more that is coming forward to assist. Bagi saya itulah yang memberikan saya secara peribadi semangat untuk meneruskan usaha untuk mencari sehingga kita mendapat maklumat kepada keluarga. Mungkin perkembangannya lebih positif.

A : Saya dari segi Jabatan Penerbangan Awam , sebagai badan kawal selia akan meneruskan lagi untuk mencari pesawat ini. Apa cara pun kita akan cari dan kaedah-kaedah terbaru yang kita akan dan sedang berjalan dengan pakar-pakar daripada USA, UK akan berjalan dan seterusnya. Kita tak patah semangat, kita akan terus untuk mencari pesawat ini. Itulah semangat kita. Dan saya ucapkan terima kasih kepada rakyat jelata kerana memberi kita sokongan yang padu untuk kita meneruskan lagi untuk mencari pesawat ini. Jadi itulah antara keupayaan kita untuk mencari, kita akan teruskan juga.

Warga MAS masih tabah untuk meneruskan, untuk menolong next-of-kin kepada passengers dan crew kami. Kita tak berputus asa. Kita akan lebihkan lagi pertolongan kepada next-of-kin, crew dan passengers.

Q : Question is not clear

A : I think I would like to look it more positively and the sense that I indicated earlier the co-operations with the Vietnamese government has been very positive. To that extent that they have even allowed our search and rescue operations to be conducted in their waters. So what status they have put in respect in their operations, our position still stand when we are looking for search and rescue. Even in the waters that we are allowed to search and rescue in Vietnam.

Q : Is there any possibilities that the cabin crew or 1 of the pilot may been involved in this somehow?

A : We are looking at that possibility

Q : Question is not clear

A : When I eluded to the search is been expended it is basically because we have not found anything in the area that we have searched.

Q : Can you please explain were you have any evidence and confirm that is somehow that the transponder and the aircraft system were both shut down systematically **and also**

A : There are 4 or 5 possibilities which we are exploring. It could have been done intentionally, **under-xxx**, explosion. So that is why I do not want to go into the **ramp** of speculations. We are looking at all possibilities.

Q : Question is not clear

A : No, I do not think they want to lead themselves. This is Malaysia's matter and we are working very close with them, both China and US.

Q : Question is not clear

A : We **didn't say we know that see pink** know.

What the investigators, the experts from US are using what they know from the satellite.

I think from the earlier statement which I made, I said a lot of unnamed **xxx** are making certain suggestions and I indicate earlier that we are investigating. I think we need to go deeper into who actually made the statement, from where and on what matter. At the moment I don't have the information.

Q : Question is not clear

A : It goes back to the turn back issue and with the experts that are working with us right now is actually to identify whether that was actually the MH370 and we need to get verifications and we work very closely with the experts. As soon as we find out, like I said earlier, we can then focus on into that area. But I cannot verify that now because what if the plane is still on the South China Sea. It is **xxxxxxx** irresponsible for us to do that. But I am very happy and I would like to remind the media that the FAA and NTSB yesterday confirmed looking at the raw data especially from the Philippine side and said that we have made the right decisions to focus on both areas.

Q : What about report to the extended to Andaman Island?

A : Like I said if it is extended to the Andaman Sea, so it will **assume in** that direction. It is normal progression, for those areas that we have not found anything we will increase an extend and from time to time on daily basis now I am telling you how far we extended. And that is my press release today.

Q : Some reports mentioned the finding of the flight simulators at the pilot's house. Can you confirm **and can Malaysian Airlines tell us is the pilot to have flight simulator on its own?**

A : What I think you see is I think that is a lot of facebook posted a picture of the simulator in its own facebook. And as far as pilot's concern, everyone is actually free to do their own hobby. Well, got a few pilots do have flight simulator at home. And we cannot answer that question until we are actually able to go in and to see. I already indicated from the police that they are have not actually gone into the house at the moment. But the investigation as regards to the pilot that is ongoing. But looking at the specific question on the simulators.

Q :Air force used to said there was blip and it was near Vietnam.

A :The fact that we have not find anything in that searching.

Q :You have not search on the. Is the pilot suspect?

A :I have to get back to you on that because we may have certain information which needs to be confirmed by the police because it's under police investigation. It's only to be fair.

Q : Is the pilot now suspect?

A : Like I said the whole passengers manifest was something that we may look into and the IGP indicated earlier the 4 areas that is looking at the possibilities of psychological, personal, there were thing that retreated earlier.

Q : Question is not clear

A : On that premise, that's what they are investigating. I don't want to PM what the police have found out. I mean if the investigation leads us to that direction, if they require us to, and within the law and we get the necessity requirement, we will do it. Of course. I have to confirm it.

Q : Time Daily: Frequent change of information and thus the miscommunication jeopardizes the search...

A : The changing of confirmation come from the information that comes in on a daily basis. And the press conferences that I give on daily basis are to rebut that. As you know, we rebutted the information that came supposedly from the Chinese satellite. And that was rebutted not only by us but also the Chinese authorities. There were information right at the beginning that the plane landed in Naning, that had to be rebutted. The conflicting information is not coming

from our team but it is coming from the speculation. Which we feel that public needs to know and we rebut it on daily basis.

Q : Sir, based on available data to this date, is there no confirmed plot or anything leads to the MH370. Just for clarification, the expansion of search is just based on possibility?

A : As I know it, no confirmed plot. And I also confirm that we are not discounting the possibility of that happening.

Q : (NOT CLEAR)

A : The four was the IGP investigation. When I talk about voluntarily turn off it was in relation to the transponder. Please do not confuse with that.

Q : Do you still talk to the Chinese families yourself? (not clear)

A : I am in touch with Chinese families on daily basis. On the families, I can confirm to you, Tan Sri Ong Ka Ting is there. MAS also has deployed 100 employees over there. It is always our concern, their welfare and trying to get as much information as we're trying the best we can with the Chinese families. We understand how frustrated they may be, and we're trying our best and it's not just China, there are other nationals involved too.

Q : Question is not clear

A : No, I think I don't denied anything

Q : Question is not clear

A : I don't think we putting pressure to Boeing xxx because we are working together at the beginning.

Q : Question is not clear

A : As far as we concern, the aircraft comply to the air readiness that is required that make it save for pressure

