

PRESS CONFERENCE : MH 370

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SPOKEPERSON

DATUK SERI HISHAMMUDDIN TUN HUSSEIN (ACTING MINISTER OF TRANSPORT)

ATTENDED BY :

TAN SRI KHALID ABU BAKAR (INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE)

DATO' AZHARUDDIN ABDUL RAHMAN (DG DCA)

AHMAD JAUHARI YAHYA (CEO MAS)

I know many of you have submitted questions, and I will try to answer some of those questions in my statement today. Every day brings new angles, especially as we are refocusing and expanding the search area – and as always, we have a responsibility to release only information that has been corroborated and verified. We cannot respond to every request immediately, so I ask you to bear with us.

Search area as the Prime Minister said yesterday, the operation has entered a new phase. The search was already a highly complex, multinational effort. It has now become even more difficult. The search area has been significantly expanded. And the nature of the search has changed. From focusing mainly on shallow seas, we are now looking at large tracts of land, crossing 11 countries, as well as deep and remote oceans.

The number of countries involved in the search and rescue operation has increased from 14 to 25, which brings new challenges of co-ordination and diplomacy to the search effort. This is a significant recalibration of the search. The search and rescue operation continues to be a multi-national effort, one led and co-ordinated by Malaysia. In the last 24 hours, the Prime Minister has spoken to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, the President of Turkmenistan, the President of Kazakhstan and Prime Minister of India.

Yesterday the Foreign Ministry of Malaysia briefed representatives from countries along the northern and southern corridors. At 2pm today, the Foreign Ministry of Malaysia briefed representatives from 22 countries, including those along the northern and southern search corridors, as well other countries that may be able to help. These include Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, China, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia and Australia.

Malaysian officials are requesting support from these countries – as well as others. This support includes general satellite data, radar playback – both primary and secondary – provisions for ground, sea and aerial search, and assets as appropriate.

We are currently discussing with all partners how best to deploy assets along the two search corridors. At this stage, both the northern and southern corridors are being treated with equal importance. We are asking countries that have satellite assets, including the US, China and France amongst others, to provide further satellite data. And we are contacting additional countries who may be able to contribute specific assets relevant to the search and rescue operation. Surveillance aircraft are required, and maritime vessels are needed, particularly for the southern corridor.

Police investigation As the Prime Minister said yesterday, up until the time the aircraft left military primary radar coverage, its movements were consistent with deliberate action by someone on the plane. I cannot comment on speculative theories as to what might have caused the deviation from the original flight path, as I do not wish to prejudice the on-going investigation. I understand the hunger for new details. But we do not want to jump to conclusions. Out of respect to the families, and the process itself, we must wait for the investigation to run its course.

The Malaysian authorities are refocusing their investigation on all crew and passengers on board MH370, as well as all ground staff handling the aircraft. Yesterday, officers from the Royal Malaysia Police visited the home of the pilot. They spoke to family members of the pilot and experts are examining the pilot's flight simulator. The police also visited the home of the co-pilot. According to Malaysian Airlines, the pilot and co-pilot did not ask to fly together on MH370. I would like to stress that Malaysia has been working with international law enforcement agencies since day one.

Aircraft maintenance Malaysia Airlines has confirmed that the aircraft was subjected to the required maintenance program: the Boeing Maintenance Planning Document. Checks are done according to this program. The aircraft had been fully serviced and was fit to fly. New involvement The Inmarsat team arrived yesterday and will support the investigations team, which includes the Malaysian authorities, and the UK and US teams.

Concluding remarks I would like to conclude by reiterating that the search for MH370 has entered a new phase. The information released yesterday has provided new leads, and given new direction to the search process. We will provide more detail on the redeployment of assets when it becomes available. Facts must be corroborated and verified before being released. When possible, we will keep the media fully briefed, but our priority remains the search and rescue operation. To that end, we have been engaged in diplomatic and investigative efforts over the past 24 hours.

END

Q : Pertama domestik pesawat semasa kali terakhir dikesan satelit pada jam 8.11 pagi dan kedua kepada Dato' Ahmad Jauhari, dimaklumkan sebelum ini pesawat terbang dengan kelajuan biasa 7 jam penerbangan tetapi kali terakhir komunikasi dikesan ialah pada 8.11 pagi bermakna telah lebih 7 jam, jadi adakah SOP MAS untuk isi minyak fuel lebih sebelum penerbangan atau MH370 ada land somewhere untuk refuel?

A : Ok, terima kasih. Dalam penyiasatan kita, waktu yang paling akhir penerbangan mengikut apa yang kita ambil daripada IMASAT satelit ialah pada 8.11 pagi waktu tempatan Malaysia, jadi dari pesawat itu silang daripada radar kita iaitu daripada point Igari dan air turnback kepada Straits of Malacca dan dari situ ada 6 handshake oleh yang didapati yang ditemui oleh satelit IMASAT dan yang keenam adalah 8.11 pagi waktu Malaysia UTC Time 0011 yang itu yang kita dapati daripada maklumat IMASAT satelit.

Untuk soalan kedua, pesawat itu dimuatkan minyak untuk penerbangan antara Kuala Lumpur dengan Beijing. Dia punya flight time kalau tak silap saya 6 jam setengah. Selalunya, kita tak muatkan untuk 6 jam setengah. Selalunya, kita tak buat reserved fuel antara 45 minit hingga 1 jam. Ini untuk buat diversion kalau kata Beijing Airport kata tutup, kita kena pergi the next nearest airport. So we normally fill up the aircraft dalam I think this aircraft has filled up kalo tak silap dalam 7 jam setengah hingga 8 jam, ya.

Q : in your capacity as Defense Minister, there's obviously breaching of airport SOPs and as well as the nation's air space security what moves or steps are you think of doing to implement to rectify this situation furthermore the chief of Airforce on Sundays or what couple of days ago said that the data of radar was not monitored real time, he said that they were what he went was a recording of the data. So has someone been sleeping on the job or should we think the way we look after our national security?

The one for IGP is that investigating the engineers of MH370 before it took off what sort of leads and hope to get from this? Thank you, sir.

A : I think looking ahead that will come with time because my immediate is to look for MH370. Secondly, I think that it is not right to say that there is a breach of SOPs that was already clarified by the Chief of the Airforce earlier and any new information that we have received of course, we will verify with the SOPs that exist. But like I said, this is unprecedented case and what we are going through here ladies and gentlemen is being monitored across the world and it may change aviation history I think it's a lesson to be learnt by everybody.

The other was relating to the IGP.

Well, I said before areas of our focus on the investigating is number 1 hi jacking, number 2 sabotage, number 3 personal problem and number 4 psychological problem and that doesn't change. And that includes, the ground staffs, everybody.

Q : Datuk Seri, what is the status of background check on the passengers has there been like suspicious finding with anyone had aviation expertise that could have taken over the flight and also on the flight circulating Can you find me on that?

A : The Prime Minister mentioned yesterday that we focus because of a new information of certain equipment being intentionally turned off. And I believe that police, the IGP himself is in the last 24 hours as in my earlier statement have started intensifying the study that doesn't mean that we have not study the manifest list earlier but Tan Sri may give elaborate on that.

Well, in light of new development and findings of the technical teams, we have classified our investigation under Section 130 (C) of the Penal Code this provide a investigation into offences of hijacking, sabotage includes act of terrorism and also all offences under the Aviation Offences Act. So that cover everything so and that means we are intensifying our investigation but we focus is remain same.

Q : (not clear)

A : Ya, kita menyiasat kesemua tu. Termasuk 4 focus yang saya sebut tadi tu. Including the ground staff, termasuk engineers, termasuk technical officers, termasuk orang yang tarik kapal terbang, termasuk semua.

Q : Datuk Seri, semalam dah diberitahu berkenaan operasi di Laut China Selatan dah dihentikan, pernahkah kapal dari United Kingdom masih berada di kawasan itu?

A : Setakat ini saya tak tahu dari segi lokasi aset-aset yang sedia ada di lokasi berkenaan tetapi yang penting daripada semalam dan hari ini, kita tengah melihat dan berbincang dengan semua pihak yang saya nyatakan tadi bagaimana aset-aset ini diberikan tumpuan kepada the northern dan southern koridor yang diumumkan tadi dan ini masih merupakan satu proses memerlukan koordinasi yang begitu rapi sekali dan semua patut memberikan kita ruang sedikit untuk membincangkan sebab ia melibatkan pihak ketiga.

Q : There's talk among the civil servants and the government knows where the missing team is and it has landed somewhere, could you actually offer a comment?

A : Clearly, that is not true. If not, I won't be standing here in front of you.

Q : Are there any people on board, who are trained to fly an airplane besides the pilot and co-pilot and we know that the plane made a turn back the Straits of Malacca. Is it a or someone hit it after it took off?

A : We have not received the reply of background checks on all the passengers as yet. There are still a few countries yet to respond to our request for a background check. But there are a few intelligence agency, foreign intelligence agency who has cleared all passengers. The second answer is that, the air turn back was not pre-determined.

Q : Tan Sri, cakap tadi passenger semua macam dah clear, so maknanya sekarang fokus on the cabin crew and passengers?

A : Saya kata bukan semua ada intelligent agency luar negara yang telah memberi clearance pada semua passengers. Tapi kita masih lagi menunggu lain-lain agensi lagi dan juga security ataupun polis daripada beberapa buah negara yang masih belum pun memberi respond terhadap permintaan kita untuk membuat respond check on some of the passengers.

Q : Antara negara yang dah bagi?

A : Antaranya China sudah, antaranya China, India sudah.

Q : Sejauh mana kebenaran laporan yang pesawat kini berada di ?

A : Setahu saya, tak ada asas untuk kita membuat kenyataan tersebut.

Q : There are reports that initially offers from the INTERPOL and was denied and FBI was not invited for the investigation, Datuk Seri can you please comment?

A : That's not true. We work with every agent including INTERPOL. And I can confirm that because I also have accessed to both the intelligent agencies around the world and also other international bodies and even getting a lot of cooperation and I think it is unprecedented the among of people have come forward to assists us in this exercise.

Q : Now is the ninth day. How was the compensation of the families?

A : Right now, we are giving immediate financial assistance. We have not actually look at compensation until we know exact what happen to the aircraft.

Q : There have been about suspicious passenger, who was going China and was Have you investigate on this person and could you please how much fuel at that into the plane

A : To the first question, as I said out investigation covers everybody on board. Ok, on the second question, the plane took off with the planned fuel we put in. The planned fuel that mean the route plus whatever we need for the diversion.

Q : As we know that the police has visited pilots place before and talked to the family. But as we know that today that his family has already move out from his place and before the missing plane, so we want to know who are the police talking to a few days before and the moving out is the routine or normal and are there any specific evidence related to the pilots?

A : I'm personally not aware of that. Nobody moved out.

Q : What will take us from the pilot and also is it possible the plane is transmitting one from the ground not what ?

A : On the first part question, we took possession of a simulator, of a flight simulator and we have dismantled it from the house and we have assembled at office and we are getting experts to look at it now. Yes, it is possible for the aircraft to be transmitted on the ground as long as there is electrical power to the aircraft system. Thank you.

Q : Can you tell us has any group or individual to seek ransom or demands ?

A : No, there's not. And that makes it very difficult to verified whether it is a hijacking or terrorist act and that's why the IGP when he mentioned about the 4 areas and all possibilities we are not taking for granted at all.

Q : Just want to know, why the authorities wait for 8 days or 7 days before where there is so much circulation and then, day 3 already perhaps someone very lot of people wondering why ?

A : As I said earlier, everybody on board MH370 is being investigated including the pilot and the co-pilot. In light of the new development, we went to the house and took possession of the simulator.

Q : What about the computer, mobile phone?

A : Everything that will help us in our witnesses.

Q : Don't you see it is necessary to do it earlier?

A : We don't see the necessity at the earlier stage.

Q : Can you tell us regarding ?

A : Yes, we have the information of the altitude but it changes. But we are talking to the service provider of the radar whether that particular height of the aircraft can differ or not because of the ~~system calibration work on the system~~. So we are working with the service provider of that particular radar system.

You have to understand that we had the primary and secondary information from the DCA and as I indicated earlier reaffirmed by the Prime Minister yesterday that sensitive data from the military was actually revealed to the experts and this is not only done and if we did not revealed we probably still searching in the South China Sea. Now we got data from satellite imagine and as I indicated earlier, we are working with other third party on all the possible information that will help us in this search.

Q : It is said more than 600 has permission for landing with this area. So now it's time will you search one by one?

A : We have identified 2 areas 2 arch we have given the chart to you yesterday. So both arch on the Northern over the length and the Southern arch from the islands of the Indonesia right to the Southern Indian Ocean and all that will be checked by the vessels, maritime vessels and that we are talking to the countries that should be able to help us indeed.

As I stated earlier, since yesterday where we are now looking at the northern and southern corridor and we looking large stretch of land. We crossing 11 countries as

well as deep remote oceans. Though in the way, it gives us some certainty to where we are looking at but the areas concern are massived and that requires a lot of coordination with a lot coordinated approach with many nation and that is what we have been doing since yesterday.

Q : Are you still investigating the passengers, have you concentrate one particular country for for one or two passengers from other nationalities?

A : No, I think we treated them all the same.

Q : Yah, also entering the phase of investigation, have you linked a motivation for an example to a certain query like suicide, should go to the south you make any association ?

A : No, not at all.

Q : Sir, you said on four possibilities. Former US ?

A : Well, anybody can say anything bt our focus remain on the the 4 areas that doesn't change and on top of that when I said classified it under Section 130 (C) Malaysian Penal Code that means the procedures under the SOSMA, Security Offences Special Measure Act will apply.

Q: Question is not clear

A: First we, I think you are referring whether we are actually troud the flight profile on the simulator, is that you are saying on the first question?

Q: Did you try to reenact the flight?

A: Yes. Not another 777, but reenact 777 simulator. So we did that and I, you know we reconfirmed basically could possibly that triple seven. Ok. That's the first question. I mean the first answer. The second one we are examined the cargo first, it carries no hazardous goods.

Q: Not clear

A: They should actually be checked and screened according the standard procedure.

Q: The question is not clear.

A: I say the passengers. On the crew members, the investigation is on the way.

Q: Just clarified it. Passenger's background were cleared by the intelligent agencies. What's that mean? Is that mean they not be reconsidered as (not clear).

A: Ya, there are no negative records on them.

Q: And what are the intelligent agencies thinks?

A: Well, I don't think I would reveal that.

Q: So, is that mean most of your attention is on the pilot and the co-pilot?

A: No. On everybody and as I said some of the intelligent agencies waiting for more police, agencies from the other part of the world.

A: I just like to remind everybody that there was intense speculation regarding two passengers travel on the false passport. And that was corroborated with foreign agencies and everybody in this room were satisfied with explanation after terror and ruling out them been terrorist. The same applies with new information that has been revealed and more intensive investigation as far as the IGP said earlier, involves the whole list of passengers on the four areas that has been concentrating on that includes terrorism, hijacking, personal problem and psychological.

Q: (not clear) the pilot say 'alright goodnight'? The Sudan Ocean is huge area. Can you search it?

A: The answer to the first question, yes it was disable before. And the second yes it's a huge area and we are getting the information on the sought of assets that is required to do a sweep and search of that area. Guess what we have been doing today.

We are getting experts advised from NN. I must reiterate that they support from international and offence from, with those assets, it's overwhelming. And I have to thank them for that.

Q: Can you confirm that Malaysia has requested for military radar data for this country as you mentioned? (next sentenced is not clear)

A: I can confirmed that we are asking for satellite data radar playback, and as I stated in my earlier statement other information regarding assets as regards to your ambassadors, I didn't quite catch your question.

Q: What about the military radar data. Has any country accept or provide any data?

A: I don't think that we can divulge that at this moment. Because even the Malaysian military data asset is sensitive to us but we have taken that putting that aside to search for that airplane. So, I don't think I can speak for the other nations.

Q: But has Malaysia has done this, have the other country also accept this?

A: The main focus is to find the aircraft. And I think any information that would help us without even revealing it to the media or the public will be taken to the situation.

Q: Question is not clear.

A: What the experts have done, the experts means the US team and the UK team, they have done, with the 6 handshakes that was provided by their satellite service. They have timed and coordinated against the one on the minimum speed the aircraft would fly and the highest speed the aircraft would fly, from the last point of contact and we have two routes, and in between is the arc or the 40 degrees where the satellite look down both side, north and south. That's how it's been done. And the interesting point is that the US team make their own way and the UK team make their own way, when we compare them, both gave the same arc as been given to all the media yesterday.

To conclude for today, I'm just saying that the information we revealed covers a huge ground and it is our hope that with that new information, parties that can be off assistant to us can come forward and help us narrow the search to an area that is.