

**PRESS CONFERENCE: MH 370
25 MARCH 2014, TUESDAY, 5.30 PM**

SPOKESPERSON:

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

ATTENDED BY :

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

AHMAD JAUHARI YAHYA, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF MAS

TAN SRI KHALID ABU BAKAR, INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE

1. Chinese Special Envoy

a. Yesterday, His Excellency Zhang Yesui, the Chinese Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Special Envoy of the Government of China, met with the Prime Minister and Dato' Seri Hishammuddin, the Acting Minister of Transport and the Minister of Defence.

b. Following the meeting with Dato' Seri Hishammuddin, His Excellency Zhang Yesui also received a comprehensive technical briefing by the international working group, led by the AAIB. Inmarsat's findings - which led to the conclusion that MH370 ended in the southern Indian Ocean - were explained during the meeting.

c. The Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) and Aircraft Accident Investigation Department (AAID) of the CAAC were present at yesterday's technical briefing. The CAAC and AAID have been, and will continue to be, members of the international working group.

d. Today His Excellency Zhang Yesui also met with the Chinese relatives of those on board MH370 who are currently in KL.

e. Malaysia is committed to working closely with the Government of China and to sharing all information related to MH370 in full.

2. Family briefing in Beijing

a. Yesterday, the Malaysian high-level team met with the Chinese relatives of those on board MH370 who are based in Beijing, for the fourth time. Over the duration of the three hour meeting, the relatives received a technical briefing and an update on the search operation. The high-level team also answered questions. Today, the high-level team met relatives again, at 3:25pm Malaysia time. The meeting is still underway.

b. Malaysia is working hard to try and make the briefings to the Chinese relatives in Beijing more productive. Malaysian officials met with His Excellency Huang Huikang, China's Ambassador to Malaysia, to request the Government of China to engage and clarify the actual situation to the affected families in particular and the Chinese public in general.

3. Operational update 2

a. The planned area of search today was 16,298 square nautical miles in the West sector, and 6,506 square nautical miles in the East sector.

b. The area identified by the Malaysian Remote Sensing Agency (MRSA) yesterday – where the 122 potential objects were sighted – was also due to be searched today.

c. Today, nine planes travelled to the search area – five in the East sector and four in the West sector.

In the East sector, searches by air were conducted by:

- two Australian civilian aircraft.
- one Chinese Ilyushin IL-76.
- one New Zealand civil aircraft.
- one Japanese Gulfstream.

In the West sector, searches by air were conducted by:

- two Australian P-3 Orions.
- two Australian civil aircraft.

d. Today six ships were deployed in the search area – one in the East sector and five in the West sector.

In the East sector, searches by ship were conducted by:

- one Chinese ship (the Xue Long).

In the West sector, searches by ship were conducted by:

- four Chinese ships (the Kunlunshan, Haikou, Qiandaohui, and Zhonghaishaohua).
- one Australian ship (the HMAS Success).

e. One Chinese ship (the Hai Xun) is expected to arrive in the search area tonight.

f. Today the weather deteriorated in the search area and search operations were suspended at 11:40am.

4. Malaysian team going to Perth

a. Malaysia is in the process of sending a team, comprised of the DCA, MAS, the Royal Malaysian Navy and the Royal Malaysian Air Force, to Perth. This team will work closely with the Australian Rescue Co-ordination Centre to assist with the search operation.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION

Q: I'm Christine from The Star. Base on the MAS PC earlier there was reports that there were credible evidence that all liaise for lost, may I know what are the credible evidences. Apart from that is government going to provide any money service support to the family members of the passengers and the last question is how much is the flight insured for and how really cover this tragedy? Thank you.

A: First and foremost, the flight last known position, I call it general location is in the middle of the southern Indian Ocean. It carries very little fuel by then and if you to fly onwards there's no land mass any nearby, so I supposed we can conclude it must have been down in the water. And that area is very remote and we're talking about 17, 18 days, yesterday was 17 days, today is the 18th days, for anyone to survive that long is extremely remote.

As far as the cover, we do have a general cover and obviously this is something we are working with the insurance right now.

Q: Tan Sri, Sarah from Malaysia Gazette. Saya nak tanya on the simulator punya investigation dan 100 orang yang dipanggil untuk bantu siasatan.

A: Siasatan terhadap simulator masih lagi berjalan dan kita masih lagi menunggu laporan daripada rakan-rakan kita dari luar negara.

Q: I'm from Varming Daylies. I wanna ask Dato' Seri which country, is Malaysia still lead the investigation team on this matter, I mean because it's nearby Australia right, so will Malaysia will still lead this team?

A: We are always maintain that we are coordinating the search and rescue from the start. It involves 26 countries that involve many vessels and aircrafts. And we have been very lucky that so many countries have been force coming and supporting our effort. We also designated squadron for countries to lead and here in the Parliament earlier, I have stated on record our gratitude to Australia because the satellite images whether it is from the French, Chinese or from Australian were in the squadron in

which Australia was to lead. Earlier on Indonesia was supposed to look at the squadron next to it because in the Southern Corridor the only two countries that has got a land mass there. So basically, yes we are coordinating; yes we are narrowing the search. That narrowing of the search will involve the southern tip of the Southern corridor and the closest country as we have decided earlier, Australia has taken a very major part in doing that.

A: (14.30) / [H2O] Australia has taken a very major part in doing that and the last few days that has indicated that they have done it seriously and I put it down record even to our Parliament to the gratitude for the continuous effort that they have been given to the operations.

Q: (15.03) / Datuk Seri, saya Sofia dari Berita Harian, seperti yang kita ketahui pesawat Air France mengambil masa 2 tahun untuk dikeluarkan sepenuhnya daripada dasar lautan. Jadi sekiranya benar MH370 berada di dasar laut di kawasan yang dimaksudkan pesawat itu berakhir perjalanannya, adakah kerajaan akan tetap meneruskan misi mencari pesawat itu walaupun sekiranya negara-negara lain menarik diri.

A: (15.31) / [H2O] Tetap dan kita akan teruskannya bersandarkan kepada kepakaran daripada pakar-pakar daripada pasukan Perancis dan dalam hal ini saya telah pun berjumpa dengan mereka, cara bagaimana dan cabaran yang mereka terpaksa lalui dalam masa 2 tahun mencari kotak hitam yang diperlukan. Maklumat itu telah pun dikongsi bersama dengan kita dan maklumat itu juga dikongsi bersama dengan pasukan-pasukan yang telah kita agihkan tanggungjawab, sama ada ianya berkisar kepada keluarga, sama ada ianya berkisar kepada teknologi untuk mencari di lautan dalam, atau ianya merupakan kepada aset-aset yang lebih sofistikated yang digunakan untuk mencari pesawat Air France yang berkenaan.

Q: (16.36) / Assalamualaikum Datuk Seri, saya Shila daripada TV Alhijrah. Datuk Seri berkenaan dengan sebelum ini dua tiga hari lepas ada cakap Australia mengatakan serpihan palet kayu yang dijumpai. Adakah ia dah sudah dianalisa dan bagaimana dengan dia punya keputusan. Dan satu lagi soalan saya, malam tadi

Perdana Menteri mengumumkan ialah credible, maybe credible petunjuk di selatan koridor, Adakah pencarian di koridor utara akan ditamatkan.

A: (17.10) / [H2O] Dah jawab. Dari segi koridor utara tadi dan yang berhubung kait dengan wooden pallet pun, kenyataan saya semalam, kalau lihat kepada statement yang saya buat dan saya quote di sini, we can also confirmed that MH370 was carrying a wooden pallets however there is as yet no evidence that they are related to the wooden palette reported to be sighted in the Australia searching.

Q: (17.48) / Assalamualaikum Datuk Seri. Sebelum itu saya dan juga rakan-rakan media yang membuat liputan dari hari pertama juga ingin berkongsi kesedihan mengucapkan takziah kepada seluruh penumpang dan pasukan siasatan yang bekerja keras selama ini. Soalan saya, semua sedia maklum apa yang berlaku di Beijing hari ini ketegangan keluarga yang tidak berpuas hati dan sebagainya. Jadi apakah respon daripada pasukan siasatan dan juga kerajaan untuk menenangkan mereka dalam situasi ini.

A: (18.18) / [H2O] Seperti saya sebut tadi struktur baru yang kita nak lakukan seperti PC yang dibuat oleh MAS tadi. Hal-hal yang ada kaitan dengan keluarga akan diberi tumpuan kepada MAS. Tetapi penghargaan dan kenyataan tadi kepada pihak pasukan SAR ini termasuk mereka yang sedang beroperasi untuk mencari dan insyaAllah menyelamatkan kalau sekiranya ada mereka yang boleh kita selamatkan merupakan satu kenyataan yang amat bermakna kepada kita. Kita sentiasa telus, kita sentiasa membuat verifikasi dan mengesahkan semua lead yang ada dan kita konsisten dalam pendirian kita, apa jua spekulasi di luar sana, apa jua tuduhan yang dilontarkan terhadap pasukan kita. Kita tidak berganjak kepada fokus utama kita iaitu untuk mencari pesawat berkenaan. Dan kenyataan tadi membawa erti dan makna yang amat mendalam kepada kita khususnya yang berempati di sini dan ramai lagi di belakang kita kerana selepas ini banyak lagi kerja yang perlu kita lakukan. Terima kasih. (19.42)

A: Beri tumpuan kepada MAS. Tetapi penghargaan dan kenyataan tadi kepada pihak pasukan SAR ini termasuk kepada mereka yang sedang beroperasi untuk mencari dan insya-Allah menyelamatkan kalau sekiranya ada mereka yang boleh kita selamatkan.

Merupakan satu kenyataan yang amat bermakna kepada kita. Kita sentiasa telus, kita sentiasa membuat verifikasi dan mengesahkan semua lead yang ada, dan kita consistent dalam pendirian kita, dalam apa jua spekulasi di luar sana, apa jua tuduhan yang dilontarkan terhadap pasukan kita. Kita tidak berganjak kepada fokus utama kita iaitu untuk mencari pesawat berkenaan dan kenyataan tadi membawa erti dan makna yang amat mendalam kepada kita, khusus yang berempat di sini dan ramai lagi dibelakang kita kerana selepas ini banyak lagi kerja yang perlu kita lakukan. Terima kasih.

Q: (NST) Earlier in Parliament today you mentioned that the government has planned to set up a Royal Commission of Enquiry includes Admin Committee. Can I know what and when is the time frame, how soon the government plan to set this up and how will this commission work in tandem with their experts that we already have on our side investigating this missing aircraft.

A: That information is not correct. There was a suggestion to have a select Parliamentary Committee to enquire into it and there was another proposal to have a Royal Commission. I said I was not in the position to make a decision myself at that particular time. But what I did confirmed, is that the Royal Malaysian Airforce is conducting its own enquiries, the Ministry of Transport is now looking at the members of an enquiry board that we want to set up. And there are other initiative that looking forward where we can actually look from the experiences that we have gone through to share with all the members interested because it is unprecedented case here. As Malaysia moves forward in that respect. All these issues I believed and I instructed my Ministry of Transport to raise in the Cabinet Meeting on Friday to have a strong indication on what we have decide once the Cabinet meet in the couple of days time.

Q: If we find some parts of the wreckage in the southern corridor, will that be brought to Perth. Set up there to assemble and analyst there or will you transport them to Kuala Lumpur and investigated the here.

A: As I mentioned earlier that particular squadron, the one that taking some leadership is the Australian authorities. So I presumed, I cannot confirm that any

debris that is discovered in those water will be brought to Australian soil. But then, I need to verify that.

22.50

Q : Seth, CBS News, there's a very elaborate calculation you've gone through in some details but the assent are saying the family members " Please trust our math". A lot of family members do not find any closure here yet, they want to see real proof. What you say to family members 'we need more than calculation'?

A (HH): I **know** I've always been consistent to the family members my only problem is giving them answer to the question that they really want to know which is which is where is their loved ones and the MH370 is, and until we can find every debris and then we can confirm that the debris from MH370. It is very difficult for me to have a more, a closure for the families. But I've indicated to them yesterday, and its been consistent with the position of the Malaysian government, is that we will do everything within our powers and this time with 26 other nations to reduce that search areas and narrow it and as I stated in my earlier by not focusing the southern corridor, we have in fact narrowed from millions of nautical miles to hundreds though it still a huge task, but the narrowing of it hopefyllly, and I'm very an optimistic person and whenever there's hope, even it against hope we will do whatever it takes. And my, my if the weather is clears, then the search will continue for the debris and hopefully will link up to the MH370 and then we can start answering that one question that they really want to know.

Q : Could you tell us briefly the kinf od investigation you are doing to this missing plane being crashed and it is any closer to what happened?

A (HH): Well, I think investigation and discussions from experts from all over the world we are monitoring very closely but I've been very consistent that a lot of these questions can be answered if we find the black box.

Q : (Same reporter but he did not use the mic)

A : Ooo, you talking about the four areas, the four areas that you've looking at. May be you should repeat your four areas.

Q :....(not clear because not using mic) ...

A (IGP) : Well again, the area of the focus is still the four areas and I'm not ready to release any findings yet because it would jeopardise the on going investigations.

Q : Family in Beijing in the Lido Hotel very sad and very angry. They hear that the yesterday message. So.....(not clear) and where it will go?

A (HH) : Before I pass to AJ, I just can confirmed that the high level team which I announced will be leaving to Beijing again today, will, it's confirmed will be leaving tonight.

(AJ) : As far as the a family members in Lido Hotel is Dato' Seri mentioned the high delegation go there, one of the thing that they want to know is more details and the fact that the yesterday announcement not carry much details, therefore everybody is speculating we are holding back information but I think with the high level delegation going there to explain to them, I hope that will, you know, that will satisfy them in terms of the current actions, why the current actions are being taken, in terms of concentrating in the southern corridor.

(HH) : I was also told that certain questions were forwarded to this high level team that came back and discussed on what information that what can be release to them and they will do that as soon as they arrive Beijing after leaving Kuala Lumpur tonight and secondly the press release relating to the information that has been given to us by the AAIB which was more detail than what I've stated, that would be brought to the families in Beijing. So that they will understand and how we have actually narrowed the search the south , the part of the southern corridor.

Q : After the development yesterday, one thingb has cane across that the plane has gone down somewhere in the southern Indian Ocean. At this point are you looking at the reason behind how the plane reached there, How it deviated from its original route and those thing some police investigation has.....(not clear) here on what is going about the interrogation the police may already conducted so far.

A (HH) : On my case, on my part, I've always been persistent and consistent about trying to locate the plane based on corroborated and verified information and you know we've gone through to the whole journey from the South China to the Malacca Straits, then down to the northern corridor, now to the southern corridor. And it involved a very complicated process of looking the satellite, radar, military, civil, primary, secondary, vessels investigation and all sorts of leads that needs to be corroborated at the particular point in time. So, that would continue, and this is something I for sure everybody that the process in which we want to get to where the possible location of MH370 has been a process that we have never move away from, not it standing the speculation, not with standing all sorts of leads that despite my request that it may jeopardize the investigation and it may affect the families concerned but that went on. Now we are in an area where we will look at specific assets because the water there are so deep and the location of the black box requires specific equipment and the 'ping' locator whether is rowed or in the vessels as I said the US have been kind enough to assist us on that immediately after this I'm meeting a representative from Pecom which was a specific command to discuss exactly that.

Q: (4.41) / I'm from China Jordan TV (xxx), it is sad you must said that satellite late data to Malaysia on March 12. Why you choose yesterday to make the announcement to and has there been any other factor that influence you to choose the timing to make the announcement and why you kept that the result said that no people survived.

A: (5.14) / [DCA] The information we got from satellite, yes came on 12 March but we have just got the 6 handshake and we have to look at them and we have to shared that information with our US team and the US team has to correlate the information and digest and from the result analysis of the US team together with the FAA team, they come out with the two corridors North and South which was announced by Prime Minister on the 15 of March, of Saturday. And it takes that long because there's a lot of work to be carry out to analyse 6 handshakes. The information that we got from Inmasat yesterday was a refinement of that information of all the handshake

and that's been refined again to be refine again as mentioned by the Minister in the statement.

[H2O] Can I just also remind you that we received the satellite data from China involving sightings in the South China Sea which made us the track ourselves from the Search & Rescue to search areas which is already searched and it was found to be negative.

Q: (6.45) / Datuk Seri, I'm Arlene from Associated Press. Sir, from the latest satellite data, can you, what it say about the flight pattern, was the plane flying at the consistent height altitude or is it going straight line, can you please shed more on this. Thank you.

A: (7.05) / [DCA] The detail of the analysis...I lost my voice... The detail of the analysis will be in the press release as we will distribute to all media at the end of this press conference. So if you have any question pertaining to the report, please write to us and we will answer to you in writing. [H2O] The press release that is going to be release to you will be much more detailed that the one that I stated and this is the information that been provided to us by AAIB. I think there's a lot of information for you to digest also. So after digesting it, I think it's only proper that you forwarded the questions overnight so that we can answer them tomorrow. Thank you very much.

Session ends