

PRESS CONFERENCE : MH 370
20 MARCH 2014, THURSDAY, 5.30 PM

SPOKEPERSON:

DATUK SERI HISHAMMUDDIN TUN HUSSEIN
(ACTING MINISTER OF TRANSPORT)

ATTENDING BY :

YB DATO SRI ANIFAH AMAN (MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MALAYSIA)
DATO' AZHARUDDIN ABDUL RAHMAN (DG DCA)
AHMAD JAUHARI YAHYA (CEO MAS)

QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION

Q: Since we have a credible evidence in the southern, is that the focus in northern now will be less. Secondly is there others countries that requested that we deploy more assets.

A: I've listed down all the asset that we have deploy and we are not deintensify these efforts. But we are identifying the area. The search are that we are credible lead from the Australian authorities.

Q : I know the priority is to find the aircraft and we are doing all we can and we'll never give up looking to the aircraft. But judging from the commercial that we saw, i think it's fair that we should adress their couple of things. The way that the incident is shaping up is so many (not clear) where to leads to be out nothing. I see for possible outcomes. Not the plane is found, everyone is okay. Maybe injured but we know how to more on form there. Number two, the plane is found everyone is perished,, we also know how to move on from there. Number three someone claim for his responsibility, so we know its false also know how to move on from there. The fourth one is that no evidence, no clue for long period of time. How do we go forward, bear in mind lives still need to be go on,

bills need to be paid, mortgage need to be settle. What would your position be as the leader of this search and rescue operation.

A : Yes i know there a very patient question but as for today,we can only tell you on the daily basis. Today what i'm comfortable with saying is that at least there is a credible lead and that credible lead requires as overnight to verified and corroborated. That's give us hope. As long there's a hope we will continue and that only why i said that is a priority to find a aircraft and possible the black box but to be fair to the family,we must also show that we must never never give up hope.

Q : When the duty roster for this particular flight release? Was it before 3rd February or after 3rd February?

A: The duty roster is a normally, you know, release it as normal. No change. It just a normal duty roster. We normally release few weeks before.

Q: Bila agaknya masa yang paling cepat untuk kita dapat pengesanan imeh satelit yang dikesan oleh Australia itu? Yang kedua mungkin, kita dah tau ia berdekatan dengan Perth kan. Mungkin ada bandar yang lebih dekat daripada kawasan perairan itu.

A: Tidak ada bandar yang lebih dekat dan kita menunggu maklumat dan laporan daripada asset-aset yang telah pun berada di kawasan atau dalam perjalanan ke kawasan berkenaan. Bila-bila masa sahaja. Dan ini merupakan satu 'breaking news' yang cukup penting yang ingin diketahui oleh orang ramai, satu dunia. Percayalah apabila kita dapat maklumat itu, kita akan maklumkan kepada dunia. InsyaAllah.

Q : Any information on the Russian and Ukraine passenger?

A :Not today.

Q : Would you consider this lead as the best lead so far from day one to the day 13? And also usually how accurate is this satellite imaging because youve seen from China and also from India. Their all proven wrong. So how we can like to confirm this time because also Australian mentioned earlier that they didn't recieved any information of

unidentified flight in their radar. So how we can confirm that and is this the best lead we got so far?

A : We consider all leads attach same level of importants. But the point that satellite imaging and experience that we went through in respect of the image from Chienese's satellite. Confirm our position was correct from the start. Any leads that we recieved must be corroborated and verified, because it found false not only it would jelopodized our investigation and our search but will give false hopes to the families.

Q: Is there any initial data being recovered from the flight simultor and if not, when is the, when do they expect to recover any data from flight simulator.

A: Yesterday the IGP has indicated quite esception essential amount regarding the flight simulator, and indicator of all the agencies and now including the internaional agencies. So I think when we get the information, we will release it to the media.

Q: What will be your next immediate action once it is verified?

A: This is where the French team which I've spoken to is very important and I've indicated yesterday that the next step would be to find the black box. And with the case of France Airlines 447, even though they knew where the location and (not clear), it took them two years before finding the black box. So now we are going to realm try to find the black box and sonar technology and different assets will have to be deploy in the effort. But we will address that when the time comes.

Q: Can you please confirm when was the satellite images taken?

A: (AR) The satellite images was taken early this morning, Australian time.

Q: Question is not clear (the reporter interrupted the QnA)

A: We don't. We don't have that information.

Q: Question is not clear.

A: It's not been verified.

Q: Question is not clear.

A: (AR) What we got is the Prime Minister of Australia talked to our Prime Minister this morning.

(HH) Yes the news is received this morning as far as the images are concern, I don't we can actually verify when it were taken. I will check with the Australian.....

Q: This is very important.

A:I know, I know it is very important. That is why we have to be very clear in our answers, I think you can appreciate that.

Q : You said all passengers are confirmed to board the aircraft. (question not clear)

A : Well, four passengers did not turn up for whatever reasons. And what we do normally when we have seats available on the aircraft, we will then call passenger who want to take that flight, passengers from another flight. We will offer them the seats.

Q : You've told us a number of times that there were deliberate actions by somebody on board. Could you just clear up? Does that mean that a possibility of catastrophic event on board, the de-pressurization people becoming unconscious. Is that ruled out?

A : No, that is not being ruled out. It's part of the investigation. Well, like I said that has not being rules out. Basically, the urgency to find the back box will give us more information on that line of investigation. Basically, if we can confirm that the debris identified this morning is the exact debris, efforts are being made to go to that location. And the next step, is to actually find the black box. With the Air France crash, it took two years, now we are preparing for a possible operation, a

multinational operation to recover the black box exactly to answer your queration, sir.

Q : I am a reporter from China Daily. We were told that the Chinese family members yesterday here, they left quietly early because someone from your..... told them some compromising information. What were that? Is it related to today's new update about the two parts. What did your people tell them?

A : As far as the next-of-kin from China to Kuala Lumpur. They have been given a very good update about 2,3 times a day. These are the same updates that we gave you. Obviouspy, it's someone from this.....We don't really know. But anyway, we're investigating why they're coming here. I must say that we regret what happened yesterday. And I understand the minister is doing a full investigation on what happenend yesterday. Yesterday, we immediately infact brought in, very high level officials from the government to explain to them exactly what we explain to you here.

I just want to confirm and reiterate what I said earlier. The high level team that I announced yesterday in PC will be leaving for Beijing this evening. I want to confirm that the representatives from the Malaysian government already spoken to some of the families and a special envoy to China, the Prime Minister's special envoy together with the Chinese Ambassador to Malaysia will lead the briefing for the Chinese families who are here in KL. If that is what you mean by more information maybe that was the answer.

Q : Will you provide any help to the Chinese family to Australia right now?

A : We do take care of the next-of-kin and assuming that if confirmed that that the aircraft is located somewhere close to Australia, we will obviously make arrangement to fly the next-of-kin there.

The credible breaking news regarding the search or the satellite images. I think that would be on most minds of all the families. So that will be the first thing we are going to update the families when the information comes in.

Q : What will you say to the families tonight?

A : I will, tell them whenever we find, my sympathies, my heart is with them all the time. This is a very difficult that as I spoke to the French team, they had to deal with the families of the passengers for two years after the crash of the France Airlines. This is the information that they're sharing with us and how to deal with the raw emotions. I do feel for them. I say that on record and I say that to the world. We do care for them and we can understand and what they're going through. But this is something that we will be getting expert advice too.

Q : Will you a little ashamed of the way they were treated?

A : Well, as AJ said just now, yesterday we regret the actions that happened yesterday.

Q : You keep using word 'credible', could you explain why this information particularly so credible? Is it the size of the pieces? What makes it so different?

A : Well, the only other lead that we had earlier was from a Chinese satellite in the South China Sea. So, right now, the information that we have received from the Australian authorities was actually corroborated to certain extent from other satellites. This is something that we can bring our ships across. This is that the two Prime Ministers spoke to. That makes it slightly different from the earlier lead.

Q : I'm wondering if you have prepared any underwater search? Have you approached any companies or organizations regarding searching for pieces of aircraft underwater in any way?

A : Deep sea searches and surveillance is something that we are already looking into. We're looking at the possibility of sonar as I mentioned earlier and the technology and the assets that are available too, very limited few. If we're talking about towing PING locators and vessels, not many countries have got the same vessels or the capability to tow that sort of equipment.

After the 30 days is up. As what the French Airlines had to go through then we are looking about submarine technology. Before that becomes an issue, let me tell you that the Malaysia's submarines do not have that technology.

Q : Have you encountered any reluctance from the American or the Australian to hand over the satellite image because this photograph is stamped four days ago?

A : Well, I think the actual date in which the images that have come out in the internet will have to be verified but I can confirm to you that we have had no reluctance from any of our partners in this SAR operation.

Q : Dato' Seri, you have continuously compared this incident to the Air France incident which took two years to find the black box. Are we prepared to go that long? Is there a possibility that it could take that long? And are we prepared for the search mission to carry on for that long?

A : I have only compared it with the French Airline crash only in the last few days. Because it has taken so long to locate the aircraft. So, once we're moving to another phase in the event that is confirmed that the debris that is found in the satellite images and efforts that ongoing right now to verify and corroborate that. In the event is in the positive then we need to go into the rounds of actually

comparing it with the French Airline crash because the condition in the Indian Ocean is very similar to the Atlantics. And that poses different challenges in our effort as we foresee further.

SESSION ENDS

