

**PRESS CONFERENCE: MH370
12 MARCH 2014 (TUESDAY), 5:30 PM**

SPOKESPERSON

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

ATTENDED BY:

TAN SRI ZULKIFELI BIN MOHD ZIN (CHIEF OF MALAYSIAN ARMED FORCES)

TAN SRI DATO' SRI RODZALI BIN DAUD (CHIEF OF MALAYSIAN AIR FORCES)

DATO' AZHARUDDIN ABDUL RAHMAN (DG DCA)

AHMAD JAUHARI (CEO MAS)

We are now entering day 5 of the search for flight MH370. My heart reaches out to the families of the passengers and crew. I give you my assurance that we will not reduce the tempo, or spare any efforts to find the missing plane.

The search has been expanded to two areas. We are now searching nearly 27,000 square nautical miles: 12,425 square nautical miles in the Straits of Malacca, and 14,440 square nautical miles in the South China Sea. 42 ships and 39 aircrafts have now been deployed to search for MH370. 12 countries have joined the search, with India, Japan and Brunei being the latest to join.

This is a multinational operation. We are thankful for the cooperation of our friends and neighbours, and we welcome all expert assistance.

The way forward now is to bring more experts in to analyze both civilian and military data; in the East or the West, on land or water – and this is exactly what we are doing today. We are now working with many experts, including from Boeing, the US Federal Aviation Authority, and the US National Transport Safety Board helping with the investigation.

Any questions :

Q : Kenapa sidang media ditangguh begitu lama?

: Kami dapat maklumat ada penumpang berhubung dengan rakannya di Beijing pada pukul 2 pagi hari kejadian. Kami di Astro Awani telah clarify benda ini dan boleh Dato' sahkan adakah sedang menyiasat?

A : Dari segi spekulasi kedua, saya tiada maklumat. Kenyataan akhbar & PC hari ini. Hari-hari pada masa ini 5 atau 5.30 saya akan hadir sendiri untuk memberi PC. This is new template where i will attend on a daily basis at this time of the day.

Q : What are the chances of survival?

A : We are still doing the search and rescue. We still have hope. The chances of survival, it depends also in a lot of criteria because we don't know where the aircraft is. That is the main until we find the aircraft then we can determine.

Can i just add to that? I would like to confirm that our immediate focus is to find the aircraft. Unless we get the aircraft and the blackbox it is unlikely that we are able to answer all the speculated issues that been raised out there. Our focus is to focus on that as our main priority.

Q : Where is the focus of the search right now? Can you confirm the plane has come back?

A : We are focussing both in the South China Sea and the Straits of Malacca. In the statement that I issued, there have been 42 ships and 39 aircrafts and this have been divided into two areas. That I have mentioned. And this is part of our initiative when the PM indicated the area of search and rescue was going to be expanded, we expanded it to the Straits of Malacca.

Q : There is speculation that Malaysia is hiding something?

A : I truly understand that. This is unprecedented that we are going through. Coordinating so many countries together, its not something easy. We are looking at so many countries together, its not something easy. We are looking at so many vessels and aircrafts, so many countries to coordinate and a vast areas for us to search. And each time that passes, I fear that the search and rescue becomes just a search. But we will never give up hope. And this we owe to the families. The longer it takes for us to find the aircrafts, i think the family members are the ones that I feel for them so much.

Q : Despite all the efforts made by Malaysia, there is still continuous criticism and no transparency especially China in making a lot accusation.

A : I don't think we can target and label it to any particular nation. China will obviously feel agree because they have so many of their nationals involved. It is also natural in crisis and tragedy. As time passes by, the emotion, frustration, but it will not distract as from our main focus which is to find the aircraft.

Q : Can you tell when is the last time the plane was found on the radar?

A : 0215 local. This is a possible turn back. Why? Because we try to collaborate with all the other radar including civil radar. At the moment, we are still collaborating with other available radars. The possible location is in the Straits of Melaka. We are still doing the forensics.

It has been very consistent. On Saturday, the PM indicated that we are going to expand the search and rescue operation. On the same we made a statement to say that there is a possibility of turn back. On the same day, we expanded the area to the Straits of Melaka. I indicated to you the number of vessels and aircrafts in the both areas. As for now, we have not found anything but we are extending further. So basically, we are being very consistent in what we have been saying in the last few days.

Q : As for the aircraft communication and reporting system, when and where did it last transmit data? Did it stop at the same time the transponder stop?

A : In our secondary radar, we look at our radar and it was posting about 1:21 in the morning. The target disappeared at 1.30 in the morning. That is because we have the secondary data, our primary radar does not pick it up and adapt particular part of time then the defence primary radar was analyse at the same day and there was indication of possibility an air turn back. There is the reason why a search was conducted in the Straits of Melaka, Andaman Sea.

Q : So, if the main ship radar is able to pick up a signal at the Melaka Straits, so, the plane should have disappeared at the Melaka Straits. So why are you still searching at the around South China Sea.

A : We states was a possibility. It is definite answer.

Q : Would you help us to understand something now. What was the altitute when it was spotted Straits of Melaka. Could you explain on the other side of Malaysia?

A : I let the DG talk about the commercial radar and then Tan Sri Razali of the ministry. I think the commercial data as I mentioned I have to repeat again costing starting from 121, but at 1.30 it disappears from our radar, that it is the secondary radar. Nothing at all. The last plot after several intermitten primary plot. There are last plot that happen at 7215 plate level 295, 200 miles northwest of Penang.

Again, you have collaborating this okay, 7215, I'm not saying this is MH370 okay, it is we are still collaborating this, we are still working with the experts.

Q : What are you saying it was? We don't know what it was?

A : It is a plot, unidentified plot. The different between secondary radar and primary radar. Secondary radar is talking to the aircraft, we are responder and give you the aircraft type, how it fly, how about the fly and so on. But on the primary radar it just give a plot, it doesn't give the identification of an aircraft.

Can I just repeat that, I can see that now we are more appreciative at the date that we have. The primary data does not actually tell you about the aircraft persay. It just talk about the plot and that required collaboration and detail analysis by experts which we have gotten also today.

Q : There is the body have been found at Melaka Straits?

A : Not true.

Q : Excuse me, this is NBC News. You are getting increasing criticism now, you searching east you searching west, you don't seem to know what you saying on radar as you taking told now why they placed that. This is confusion now.

A : I think that's not true. I don't think so. I think it's far from it. It only confusion if you wanted it to be seen to be confusion. We make it very clear, that we be very consistent in our(Interrupt by reporter)

Q : Where you need to search?

A : Yes, in this two areas and we have searching this area.

Q : Is it now you have expended the search to ask the Indian government to help you? Is that wrong?

A : The Indian government had come on board as part of the multinational operation and I think that is something that should be commended. And it is a small operation that we were looking at. And until we find that craft we will do whatever it takes to find it.

Q : Did air force send jet to track the plane?

A : No.

Q : Can you describe on of much details of possible and what kind of operation you looking from the FAA and the NTSP?

A : We have discussed with them today. We have working a mechanism that we canthat we have to work with them...they will come out with their... their list of item that they could able to help with us. And by tomorrow we should able to sit down again and again we have to plot the mechanism so that it can implement, so that we could work together in our effort to find the aircraft. They are so many thing that we are going to..... (Interrupt by Minister)

A : The data from military and commercial had been also share with them to be analysis and to look at it in more detail.

Q : Sir, question to DCA, Sir. It is following on with last year in November, the FAA have issue a directive, a warning, a warning about problem, weak spots and fuel lodge from B-777 fleet from CNBCDo you have the flawless upmost confident and structure integrity of the B-777 that MAS is flying?

A : From our record the aircraft when it fly is airworthy. They complies to all the aviational directive that been issued by its state of design that is USA, FAA issued all the...ermm....aviational directive and then complex.....(interrupt by reporter)

Q : Do you receive that directive sir?

A : Of course...of course....

Q : And you check this flying and there is nothing wrong with them?

A : At time.....at that time of the fly the aircraft ever see with our.....(interrupt by reporter)

Q : Dato', Dato'

Q : On the last November, did you look for that particular fault or the defect and the fact that.....

A : I cannot tell you the details.

Q : Dato' Seri

A : We ensure all our aircraft are airworthy and complied to all the a list and the SP issued by the manufacture.

Q : On this perspective plane sir?

A : Yes.

Q : On this perspective plane, did you look on this perspective plane sir.....(interrupt by CEO MAS)

A : From this perspective plane I will have to check on the record but as a policy....as a policy, Malaysia Airline ensure that all its fleet complied with the SP and SD issued by the contractor.

Q : On this perspective plane.....

A : No, I have to check for this perspective plane, okay? But, as a policy ...

Q : Dato'Dato' Seri.....

Q : Could you just tell us there are five US satellites over the region...are we keep in touch with them?

A : Yes, we are in touch with them.

A : Lady at the back

Q : Do you receive data from the engine manufacture?

A : Yes....yes

Q : This is five day in this investigation and we heard to be so much chaos and certain problem.

A : I think it is not a matter of chaos, they are a lot of speculation that we had answer to last few day, and credit must be given to those was work hard to ensure that any speculation not an issue that have been raised, have been investigate and have be very transparent to the media and to the public. That is for the family's concern, secondly on the issue of more data and expertise determine, I think that is a process will be going on. And today we have been indicated others agency to coming to help DCA in that investigation. Finally, the issue of getting multinational cooperation, it was a different level of cooperation. That will.....we will review form time to time.

Q :Tan Sri....Tan Sri.....

Q : Why is it that Malaysiawhywhy we lack transparency and very stingy in information.

A : Because the information has passed between.

Q : The information is keep changing. And we doesn't give confidence to Tan Sri....

A : That is an opinion...erm....erm...erm...

Q : I want that Dato' Seri to explain that is the issue about five passengers. Is the different answer from different agents? Can you answer that?

A : The five passengers that...erm...checked in were on boardthey were no package was offloaded and those that bookedfour passengers they booked they didn't arrived were replace from the reserve place. Correct? (Looking to CEO MAS)

Q : This is different from what you said yesterday.

A : Okay, just to set the record straight, there is a lot of confusion here..okay..all of the 227 passengers that were booked on that flight, 4 did not turn up, it mean he never check in, he did not turn up. We have standby passengers of which 4 was then boarded replaced the 4 that did not turn up. So what it means that all passengers that checked in got their luggage onboard.

Q : Mr. Minister...

A : That means that.....

Q : That police said that yesterday that what exactly what police part of the investigating was. Can you tell us what the DCA is? What is the likely scenario that DCA....

A : I stand by with what the IGP had indicated yesterday.

Q : What is the DCA part of investigation about?

A : about?

Q : What exactly and possible thing that DCA investigating, FAA and MAS looking at? What are the some other possible is? Currently possible thing that you could tell us.

A : There may possibility one of them is to help us in finding the aircraft. They are looking at the data that we were given to them on the...on the...our radar tracking, record of our radar. Number two is that they looking at aircraft record. Okay. Looking at the aircraft record and also they also will

going to help us in the...in the investigation of possibility if we find the aircraft. That we preparing.....

A : The focus is on locating the aircraft and we have data from the military and the commercial. Those radar data is going to be use by the expert to assistance and locating it. That is the primary focus at the moment.

Q : What do you think how low own the military radar? How long that plane can fly?

A : One...

Q : And also...sorry...

A : Yep

Q : And addition to that, why have taken you so long to give all that information and can you not surprise that people are wondering if you are hiding? And take you 5 days to be your very key piece of information?

A : No, because what we indicated on Saturday was that there were possibility that a turn back and primary radar does not indicate what aircraft it is. Until today we are not sure that it is the same aircraft. That is why we searching in two areas. That why we deploying all our vessels and also aircrafts and from neighboring country in this 2 area. If we know for sure, that it is in Malacca Straits, we will move all our assets there. So, basically there is no real confusion unless you want to look for confusion. So this PC today, Ladies and Gentlemen, is ready to clarify that.. to make sure that...erm...information that we have be saying in the last 3 days is consistent, is transparent, we got nothing to hide. And actually we all wait to the parents, to the family to tell the truth.

Q : Tan Sri, I have a question for you...

A : I would like to reinforce what my minister said just now said that.

Q : Dato Sri...

A : Listen, I got to clear this out, this is very important. When the prime minister on Saturday afternoon said that we got to expand the area of search, we the military went back and sat down thinking of the area that could be expanded and also we would be baffled by not getting any distress signal from this particular aircraft if it had gone missing. So we decided that we should now review if our air defense radar tracks this particular aircraft. When we look at that recording, it proves that there is a possibility that...that this aircraft made a turn back, but we are not sure either the same aircraft. But it happened to be in the same area that...that...that..the signal came up on the radar screen that made a turn back. So, we decided immediately we call the bridge with the radar of DCA in Kota Bharu. And to a certain extent, we saw some blip too. It raises possibility getting higher for us. Not yet and we are not sure, but can I take the risk if it making a comeback, you know the speed of the aircraft and sort of, if it goes to the Straits of Malacca and if I do not respond, by sending some of my assets that particular night, just in case I got to do something. I contacted my Minister. Sir, this is what I think going to happen. I would like to deploy mine assets that which is already in the west coast which have not yet been deployed in the east coast. We send some ship immediately from Lumut that particular night to the place where we suspected that the aircraft would be. And the next morning, at first flight, we sent a Charlie 130 immediately to scout the area..to see at the possible. Now, it is a possibility, at the slightest of possibility, I must respond, for the sake of the passengers on MH370.

Q : So, would you tracking this in real-time is unidentified object fly across Malaysia? Would you track it in real-time? And if you were, why do you not send a.....

A : No, we did not track it in real-time. We saw recording of it. We were not sure. We....at...just to happen when we saw the recording of the data. That make us to...so we have to respond.

Q : Kadir from RTM.

A : Yang daripada RTM tadi.

Q : If transparency is your aim, and you said that you are looking for the aircraft, transparency is your aim and you reaching out to the civilians, authorities and police for help. Why not release the raw radar data and any plan?

A : We did collaborate with others radar with our neighbor.

Q : The plan to release raw data of the radar?

A : Yes, we plan to release it to them, but as long as I know that actions are being taken for the conduct of the search and rescue operation. I...the next day we immediately contacted our friend from Indonesia. Please, activate your SAR, which they came immediately.

END

