

PRESS CONFERENCE : MH 370

18 MARCH 2014, TUESDAY, 5.30 PM

SPOKEPERSON:

DATUK SERI HISHAMUDDIN 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)

Q : Mengenai dengan simulator. Penyiasatan mengatakan ada lima lapangan terbang atau hantu disiasat dalam simulator oleh Kapten Zaharie dan keduanya, apa, mungkin kerajaan Malaysia ada menular di social media mengatakan di Malaysia tempat lahir terrorist. Dan mungkin kerajaan Malaysia ingin mengatakan sesuatu.

A : Pertamanya, dari segi simulator, saya nak menyatakan di sini bahawa semasa IGP menghadiri PC kita dahulu, ia tidak timbul pun perkara yang dibangkitkan tadi. Tetapi dalam masa terdekat saya percaya bahawa pihak polis boleh maklumkan kepada orang ramai hasil siasatan Malaysia berhubung kait dengan simulator tadi. Berhubung kait dengan dakwaan bahawa Malaysia merupakan sarang terrorist, saya dulu lima tahun sebagai Menteri Dalam Negeri dengar dakwaan-dakwaan sebegitu juga tapi memang jelas ianya tidak ada langsung asas apatah lagi kalau nak kaitkan dengan apa yang kita lalui hari ini. Isu terrorisme ini telah dibangkitkan apabila dua penumpang daripada Iran menggunakan passport palsu dan apabila dah disiasat dan telah pun disahkan oleh agensi-agensi risik peringkat antarabangsa, jelas ianya tidak ada asas langsung. Jadi, nak kaitkan insiden ini dengan dakwaan bahawa Malaysia merupakan sarang terrorist itu, saya menafikan sekeras-kerasnya.

Q : There might be difficulties among the 25 countries who are involved in the search and rescue as you know ... (not clear) did not enjoy a good diplomatic relation with each other. So, do you would endear them from this massive effort. And also question to Datuk Seri Hisham, Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan , India, they said

they never received any unidentified plane in their air space. So do you think it's now time to maybe you know focus more on Southern corridor and have you received any radar information from Indonesia who are at the Southern corridor?

A : (Anifah) Yes, you are absolutely right. It's a very very complex situation and to together 25 countries to work together as a team is a tremendous effort. But 1 thing for sure, we have 1 advantage because the government of Malaysia has a cordial relationship with all these countries and as I said earlier, because of the Prime Minister is on a phone call basis with the most foreign minister and president and therefore the ability to communicate and also their willingness to assist and taking into the ...(not clear) other factors including humanitarian aspects. But this is would not be possible if Malaysia has not established and have a good relationship with those countries, and credit must be given to all those other countries for willing to assist in this operation.

(Hishammuddin) On the Indonesia, I've spoken to Pak Padoromo earlier today and he have indicated there is no new development from previous data and information that was provided to us, but I requested the Indonesian military to relook again and not only satellite but whatever other data that they may have, again in the might of emphasis on the northern and southern corridor. The southern corridor faces more challenges because the area huge, the two countries we are seeking assistant from which are geographically in that position is Australia and Indonesia. And I was speaking to secretary Chuck Hagel regarding the possibility looking at the US satellite, radar and aircraft and vessels to assist us in the Southern corridor.

Q : Question is not clear.

A : We are not discounting any possibility. That's why we have to find the aircraft. That's why we are talking to all 25 countries, the aircraft is very important, find the aircraft and get the evidence from the aircraft either system or somewhere. We have, we have not discounting any possibilities. Thank you.

Q : Selepas 11 hari operasi misi mencari dan menyelamatkan dilancarkan dan berdasarkan pertemuan dengan pakar-pakar penerbangan dan juga pesawat, adakah mereka memberitahu mengapa pesawat itu masih gagal ditemui?

A : Belum lagi. Dan mereka juga mengharapkan usaha yang kita lakukan dengan Negara-negara jiran dan mereka yang mempunyai asset yang semuanya cukup sophisticated dan kalau sekiranya dengan asset-aset yang sophisticated ini pun kita tidak mendapat maklumat yang tepat setakat hari ini, maka tuduhan-tuduhan yang kadang-kadang melulu, yang bersandarkan kepada spekulasi, saya harap bahawa orang ramai dapat menilainya sendiri.

Q : Will police call Anwar regarding investigation?

A : We have been very consistent, the government has been focused from day one has been to search and rescue MH370. We didn't bring this up. In fact the issue of politics was raised by the foreign press, and if I'm not mistaken, was the Daily Mail and the CNN today. Our position remain this issue is above politics.

Q : Ada dua orang penumpang Iran dalam MH370. Difahamkan kita tidak meminta bantuan kepada kerajaan Iran walaupun Iran telah menawarkan kerjasama. Mungkin ada kemudahan satelit format yang boleh membantu.

A : Setakat ini tidak ada keperluan untuk menghubungi kerajaan Iran kerana siasatan rapi sedang dijalankan oleh kerajaan dan tidak memerlukan Wisma Putra menghubungi kerajaan Iran. Apa saja keperluan akan dikemukakan melalui Wisma Putra.

Q : Kenapa 4 buah kapal dihantar yang hanya boleh memuatkan 80 orang dan adakah ini mencukupi untuk kita hendak membawa lebih 200 orang?

A : Memang tak cukup. Harap esok pihak Tan Sri Panglima Angkatan Tentera akan bersama-sama dengan kita memberi butiran lebih terperinci bukan sahaja tentang aset kita tetapi juga aset dari negara-negara luar yang cukup sophisticated dan ini sedang kita fikirkan bagaimana kita hendak untuk deploy ke kawasan yang terlibat.

Q : Adakah kerajaan telah menerima laporan Panglima Tentera Udara Thailand bahawa terdapat pesawat yang tidak dikenali di ruang udara mereka? Jika ada, bila dan jam berapa? Adakah itu MH370?

A : Belum saya terima dan tadi saya sempat berbual dengan Jeneral NiPat dari Thailand. Saya telah meminta mereka mengkaji semula playback data dari radar mereka khusus kepada masa yang telah ditetapkan sejajar dengan apa yang kita putuskan iaitu untuk melihat semula koridor selatan dan utara dengan fokus yang baru. Maklumat awal kita membuat carian di Laut China Selatan dan Selat Melaka

dengan maklumat kita terima dari rakan-rakan dari Asia. Hari ni sepanjang pagi ini saya telah cuba menghubungi semua pemimpin Asean untuk melihat semula data-data yang ada pada mereka.

Q : Benarkah ada penumpang yang bekerja sebagai juruterbang MAS?

A : Dari senarai penumpang tidak ada yang ada background pilot.

Q : Keutamaan sekarang ini mencari pesawat yang terhempas atau pesawat yang mendarat sebelum hilang?

A : Mencari pesawat.

Q : The latest report claiming that there was possibility new ways point set that brought the plane towards the current Report says it could have been done before the plane took off or done in flight. Can you confirm this?

A : I could not confirm this report as investigation is on going.

Q : Will you be able to establish north or the south corridor ?

A : If you follow the sequence of events from the DCA data to the military primary data, then confirmed by the international agencies, FFA and GSP ,we confirmed through satellite data that north and south could be the possible location of the aircraft. So we are giving emphasis to both. But what I've explained to the Malaysian media today was that all effort is being used now to reduce the area of concentration. That could be done by relooking at satellite data that we already have, seeking assistance from other friends that have satellite capability, radar capability, primary and secondary. For them, if they have already looked at them earlier to relook at them and finally using the asset whether in the air or in the sea to try and narrow that area. But answering your question, at the moment, until that is done, both become a priority.

Q : Family members in Beijing are trying to have a hunger strike. Can you confirm on that and comment?

A : We are doing all we can in order to ensure that we've given sufficient assistance and information and care to all family members in Beijing. There's something that I will definitely look into. I am in regular contacts with the team in Beijing. If anything like that happened or there is a threat, we will obviously look into that immediately.

Q : Question not clear

A : The discussion this morning was to update Secretary on our immediate focus and the details of each. I don't need to reveal here but the enormous area that

needs to be covered with the special focus on the Southern Corridor which we know the US have got possibly the best ability to assist us in locating the aircraft in the Southern Corridor. That is something that I could reveal to you today. Northern Corridor I indicated today that there are countries that have decided and agreed to lead in certain areas on that leadership. When that information comes in, we will reveal it to the media.

Q : Is there any possibilities that the plane can be found in the Southern Corridor? (not very clear)

A : I'm not aware of that information.

A : As I mentioned yesterday and today as well, the possibility of the aircraft to be in the two corridors, Northern and Southern. We cannot discount and we give equal importance to these two corridors and this has been done with our international partners as mentioned by the Minister just now.

Q : First, I would like to congratulate Minister of Foreign Affairs for the good diplomatic ties. It's good to hear. Still I want to go back to my colleague's question from CNN. We hear since this morning, loads of criticisms from countries indicating the land search in the Northern Corridor. It seems to be hard for them to believe that the plane could have entered the borders without noticing. Also we see that it took you 7 days to confirm us that the plane did a u-turn. It took you more days I mean to confirm that the plane left the borders without being detected. I'll ask 3 questions for you, Minister of Defence, very fast, very brief.

First one, what consequences can these mistakes will have on your administration?

Second one, can you confirm us, is that true you're PM Najib's cousin?

Third, are you protected?

A : I really don't know. Where are you from? I think I should leave the French Office of Investigation Analysis for the safety Civil Aviation, the experts from France to answer those questions. Yes I can confirm here, Najib is my cousin. I don't know what I am supposed to be protected from.

Q : My question is for the MAS CEO. I would like to ask that regarding yesterday. You mentioned that the air caste did not send any response back after 30 mins. So, what evidence do you have it was deliberately turned off because if it didn't come back in 30 mins, it could have been malfunctioned?

A : There's a possibility of this lead of malfunction. But, the satellite communication system was still active until 8:11 the last time it was picked up. So like

I said, there is some functionality in the system except the reposting system was disabled.

Q : Malaysia's government has acknowledged that it does reserve some information due to some national security concern, so, could you please specify, what kind of information you're refusing to disclose? Is it the radar signal, flight route or even plane's where about. Will these information affect the current SAR effort and will you withheld any information without considering that these risks for the passengers' safety?

A : In fact, on the contrary. I've stated on record that we've put aside national security interest by disclosing our military radar data. And if we did not disclose those radar data we would not have gone and searched in these two areas. And if we did not get help and corroboration from international agencies, like the FAA, and NTSB would not be able to look at the satellite data. So the sequence of events actually the turning point would be the release of very sensitive data to the MALAYSIAN military. That's why yesterday I answered the question that we need to relook on how to upgrade our radar system, because we have put the interest of the passengers and the plane above national security and national interest.

Q : What time was the transponder switched off? Is either the co-pilot or the pilot in their flying experience ever flown to any of the Southern or Northern Corridor?

A : Transponder was, we understand from the record it was switched off about 1:21. And as far as the pilots, we are looking at the Northern Corridor; we do not fly there at all, as a commercial airline. As for the Southern Corridor, obviously, unless you fly to those islands (not really clear)

Q : According to PM's statement some days ago, Malaysia military radar the plane and confirmed to be missing plane and flying to the North area of Straits of Malacca. Why didn't Malaysia Air Force at that time?

A : That question was answered by our Air Force Chief.

Q : Is it done by a man or part of plot? (not clear)

A : I really cannot speculate on that. Because all the leaders that I've spoken to whether super powers, ASEAN leaders, they said that this is a unique, unprecedented situation, it's a complicated and complex situation. So my emphasis has always been consistent from the start which is to find the aircraft. And God willing if we find the air craft we will be able to get the black box and with the information on the black box we will be able to answer those sorts of questions. But I would not want

the team to be distracted by other issues because it is imperative to make sure within the corridors that we've identified and verified and corroborated that all efforts would be actually directed to locating that aircraft. I believe if we can find the air craft soon, insyaAllah with the black box most of these questions speculated around the world will be answered.

Q : (not clear)..... How many countries have given any information on these?

A : we are unable to give a very detailed answer to that because primary radar, any information from our radar is a privilege for those countries. If any finding of course we will tell you. I would not want to confirm which countries. That is public knowledge that every country must have got the primary military radar. The only one that is out and opens is basically Malaysia's. And that we've done for the interest of finding the aircraft.

Q : Was the plane's path was programmed (not that clear)....

A : As far we are concerned, the flight was programmed to fly to Beijing. That's the standard procedure. The aircraft was scheduled to fly to Beijing. It's a speculation. Once you're in the aircraft anything is possible.

SESSION ENDS

