

Malaysia establishes 3 ministerial committees to work on MH370 incident



KUALA LUMPUR, April 5 (Xinhua – RHC), -- Malaysian Minister of Defense and acting Minister of Transport, Hishammuddin Hussein, said on Saturday in a press conference that the Malaysian government had established three ministerial committees to streamline and strengthen their work on the missing plane.

The Next of Kin Committee, led by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hamzah Zainuddin, would oversee all aspects regarding the next of kin, providing families with information on the search operation, and offering support after the search operation had been concluded.

The committee would also coordinate with relevant foreign governments and complement the work already being done for the families by Malaysia Airlines.

Hishammuddin said that deputy Minister of Transport, Abdul Aziz Kaprawi, was in charge of the second committee overseeing technicalities, specifically, the formation and the appointment of the investigation team.

Abdul Rahim Bakri, the deputy minister of defense, will lead the third committee which took over issues related to the deployment of assets for the search operation. The committee would also work with foreign counterparts and keep in touch with the Australian Joint Agency Coordination Center.

The minister said Malaysia would continue to lead the investigation into the missing MH370 flight according to the related requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). Moreover, he said an independent ' Investigator In Charge' would also be appointed to lead an investigation team.

According to Hishammuddin, the investigation would be composed of three groups: an airworthiness group to look at issues such as maintenance records, structures and systems; an operations group to examine things such as flight recorders, operations and meteorology; and a medical and human factors group to investigate issues such as psychology, pathology and survival factors.

The minister said during the U.S.-ASEAN Defense Forum, the United States and the ASEAN member countries assured him of their continuing support in the search operation.

When asked by Xinhua about their plan for the arrangements of the families, Yahya said once they had any evidence of the aircraft, they would fly the families to Perth, which was their current arrangement.

Hamzah said they just formed the new Next of Kin Committee, which would look into pre-and-post conclusion operation. "Close cooperation between China and Malaysia is imperative," Hishammuddin added.

Different from the previous statement made by Malaysian Inspector General of Police Khalid Abu Bakar that all the passengers on board the missing MH370 flight had been "cleared" of hijacking, sabotage or having psychological or personal problems by the police, Hishammuddin said he did not think anybody had been cleared from any of the investigations.

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