

Liow: No proof of MH370 flight simulation

Give evidence to investigating team if it exists, says minister

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia is unaware of any evidence that MH370 pilot Captain Zaharie Ahmad Shah conducted a simulated flight deep into the remote southern Indian Ocean less than a month before the plane vanished.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai said there was no indication that Zaharie had flown that route and authorities here were not aware of such evidence.

He said criminal investigations were ongoing and he would leave it to the investigation team to examine whatever evidence they had.

The New York magazine claimed to have obtained a confidential document from the Malaysian police investigation into the disappearance of MH370, which “showed the strongest evidence Zaharie made off with the plane in a premeditated act of mass murder-suicide”.

“We don’t have that evidence as of now. If you have that evidence, please hand it over to the investigation team,” Liow said.

Meanwhile, Malaysia Airlines Berhad and Boeing inked a deal here for 50 Boeing 737 Max airplanes. Liow said the deal was a positive sign that MAS was firmly on the right trajectory.

MAS had made good progress in its turnaround plan, he added, delivering ahead of its financial budget for the first three months of this year. “The Government is confident that MAS will be able to complete its recovery plan successfully,” he said.

Liow added that the Government viewed the airline as a critical partner in promoting Malaysia as a tourist and business destination, as well as connecting Malaysians all over the world.

“MAS itself contributed approximately RM6.9bil to Malaysia’s GDP. For every person employed by the company, another four jobs are supported elsewhere in the economy,” he said.

SOURCE : THE STAR | PAGE: 10 | 28 JULY 2016