

## **Govt open to restarting search for flight MH370, says Loke**

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Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia is open to restarting the search for Flight MH370 if there are credible leads and concrete proposals, Transport Minister Anthony Loke said. The Malaysia Airlines plane vanished in March 2014 with 239 people on board, while en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing. Speaking to reporters at the 5th MH370 Remembrance Event here yesterday, Loke said United States-based exploration firm Ocean Infinity failed to locate the plane despite searching for it for several months on a “no find, no fee basis” last year.

The company had used hi-tech drones to scour the seabed, but did not locate the plane. However, Loke said if Ocean Infinity or anyone else could convince Malaysia that new technology might make the search more efficient, then “we are more than willing to restart the search”. He added that the ministry remained steadfast in its commitment to solve the mystery of MH370 and “bring closure to this tragic incident”.

On the anniversary, Loke said five years might have passed, but crew on board would be remembered dearly not only by the families but also Malaysians and people the world over. “There are no words that can describe the feelings, pain, sorrow and sleepless nights that the families and loved ones of those on board have gone through in these five years since that day. “Certainly, it has been a frustrating time for all of us as the search missions were unable to locate MH370,” Loke said.

On March 8, 2014, MH370 disappeared from radar shortly after taking off from Kuala Lumpur International Airport en route to Beijing, sparking a massive search which eventually centred on the southern Indian Ocean. In November last year, five pieces of debris believed to be from the missing plane were handed over to Malaysia.

The debris was said to be found by local fishermen and members of the public between December 2016 and August last year at three separate locations in Madagascar.