

MH370 Search Extended to May 29

PUTRAJAYA: The government will review the search efforts for Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, and may cancel it. Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, speaking after chairing the first cabinet meeting, said the government would review the matter and did not discount the possibility of terminating the search.

“We want to know the details. What is the necessity for this? If we find that it is not necessary, we will not renew it (the contract),” he said, referring to the contract with a United States - based company engaged to search for the missing jetliner.

Later, Transport Minister Anthony Loke said the cabinet decided to extend the search till May 29. “We hope there will be positive developments. “If not, the decision whether to continue the search will be decided later.”

On March 8, 2014, Flight MH370, with 239 people on board, dropped off the radar shortly after taking off from Kuala Lumpur en route to Beijing. It sparked a massive search in the Southern Indian Ocean that ended in January last year.

The previous government engaged US company Ocean Infinity, whose search vessel, Seabed Constructor, has covered 86,000sq km of seabed in the southern Indian Ocean without success, according to the latest weekly report on the operation. The search began on Jan 19 and is on a “no find, no fee” basis.