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**MEDIA STATEMENT**  
**BY YB DATO' SRI LIOW TIONG LAI**  
**MINISTER OF TRANSPORT**

Liow: National Prosecution Way Forward for MH17

I am pleased to note that a joint decision has been reached by the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) countries with regards to the prosecution of those responsible for the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 nearly three years ago.

Malaysia together with our JIT partners, the Netherlands, Belgium, Ukraine and Australia have agreed on national prosecution to take place in the Netherlands as an effective process for ensuring accountability in compliance with the highest international standards.

This is in line with our unwavering commitments to establish truth and seek justice particularly to the families and loved ones of the passengers and crew on board MH17. We are also pleased to note that the Dutch Public Prosecution Service will make the necessary decisions concerning prosecution at the appropriate time given the criminal investigation is still ongoing.

The trial will take place within the framework of Dutch criminal justice proceedings, on the basis of tried and tested substantive and procedural criminal law. The Dutch legal system grants considerable rights to next of kin to observe and participate in proceedings. Furthermore, the Netherlands maintains a joint legal framework with many countries for legal assistance and extradition, based on multilateral and bilateral treaties. The cooperation between the investigative authorities will also continue in the prosecution phase.

With this milestone, Malaysia is ever more resolute to seek justice. As part of the JIT, Malaysia remains single-minded in our pursuit to prosecute those who are responsible in this unfortunate tragedy. We wish to also record our gratitude to our colleagues in JIT for all the hard work that now enables us to move forward on a more solid ground.

Given the complex geopolitical situation, it is crucial that the criminal investigation is conducted in an independent manner. Therefore, at this juncture, it is too premature to speculate on the outcome of the criminal investigation.

While we cannot take away the grief of the families and loved ones of MH17 passengers and crew, we will do everything possible to ensure justice is done independently, fairly and transparently. We will not rest until all the facts are known and justice is served.

During this trying time, our thoughts and prayers are with the families and loved ones of the passengers and crew on board MH17.

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