

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
YB DATO' SRI LIOW TIONG LAI  
MINISTER OF TRANSPORT MALAYSIA  
AT THE THIRD REMEMBRANCE OF MH370 TRAGEDY

**His Excellency Mr. Speaker**

Today, 8 March 2017 marks the third anniversary of Malaysia Airlines (MAS) flight MH370 incident with 227 passengers and 12 crew on board. The unprecedented tragedy stunned the world in general and Malaysians in particular when a Boeing 777-200 commercial aircraft from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing was reported missing.

The date 8 of March 2014 will always be in our memory. It has undoubtedly been a difficult and trying thirty-six months for the families and loved ones of the passengers and crew Flight MH370.

Three years may have passed, but the memories of the passengers and crew on-board will always be with all of us and they will be remembered dearly not only by the families but also by Malaysians and the world community. Thirteen nations have also lost sons and daughters to this tragedy.

There are no words that can describe the feelings, pain and sorrow that the families and loved ones of those on-board have gone through in these three years since that unfortunate day.

Not a single day passed without us hoping and praying that we can find answers to this tragedy as we owe it to the families and loved ones of the passengers and crew on-board MH370. Certainly, it has been a frustrating time for all of us as the search mission were unable to locate flight MH370.

**Your Excellency,**

The suspension of the search mission on January 17th, after more than two and a half years is certainly not easy and will be felt very deeply by all of us. The joint decision by the Governments of Malaysia, Australia and People's Republic of China has not been taken lightly nor without sadness.

I understand that the decision is very difficult for us to consider, much less accept. We all want answers be it families and loved ones of those on-board, the Government and our people.

The suspension is by no means the end in our unwavering commitments to find closure to this unfortunate tragedy. I wish to reiterate that the aspiration to locate MH370 has not been abandoned and we remain ever hopeful that we will be able to find the answers we seek when the credible evidence becomes available.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Governments of Australia and China for standing together with us since the first day of this unfortunate tragedy and to all the other nations and organisations who have helped Malaysia during these trying times.

In this regard, the Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) has been tasked to lead a response team to handle all matters relating to MH370 following the suspension of the underwater search mission.

**Your Excellency,**

This day is in fact, a very sad day for us. However, during these trying times, we must strengthen our solidarity and unity among ourselves, in memory of this MH370 tragedy.

Therefore, this remembrance session that we observe today is to commemorate the third anniversary of the unfortunate tragedy and to remember the 239 passengers and crew on-board flight MH370.

I hope and pray so that the families and loved ones of those on-board will be given strength to resume normal lives, or as normal a life as may be possible without their loved ones. Our thoughts and prayers have and will always be with all the families and loved ones as we stand together with them in these trying times.

Finally, to remember and honour those on-board in this unfortunate tragedy, I humbly request the members of this august house to observe a moment of silence and pray for an answer towards this incident.

Thank you.