

# Expert: There should be debris if plane dove at high speed

**KUALA LUMPUR:** An expert yesterday disputed a new report that says Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 plunged into the sea at high speed — up to 6,096m a minute — as there was no debris found by the search party.

Universiti Kuala Lumpur Research and Innovation head Professor Dr Mohd Harridon Mohamed Suffian said if MH370 plunged into the ocean at high speed, the jetliner would have broken apart on impact.

He said this was not possible because there were no traces of explosion found during the search-and-rescue operation.

He said this theory could not hold true as there was no major debris or fuselage found since the search operation was launched 888 days ago.

“Weird... We should have found at least small or major debris, or even the fuselage, if the theory is true.

“However, there is no such thing. Maybe MH370 ran out of fuel so there was no explosion.”

However, Harridon was not rejecting the theory that the jetliner dove at high speed.

“We could only accept the data and conduct research to break the deadlock and find debris. That’s our main objective,” he said yesterday.

On Tuesday, Australian defence scientists who analysed signals from MH370 revealed that the Boeing 777 fell quickly before crashing into the Indian Ocean off the coast of Western Australia.

Data analysis and manufacturer simulations showed it was likely that the aircraft had lost engine power before falling out of the sky at a rate of up to 6,096m per minute on March 8, 2014.

Asked on the possibility that the jetliner had crashed at high speed in the search area, former pilot Captain (retired) Abdul Rahmat Omar Mohd Haniff said none of the search vessels and aircraft found any extraor-



**Professor Dr Mohd Harridon Mohamed Suffian**

dinary debris during the search operation.

“The Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) designed to activate in a crash did not send any message.

“The ELT would have been triggered if MH370 dove at 6,096m per minute. In this case, there was nothing.

“This is why I still hold on to the theory of someone gliding the aircraft to a smooth landing, dislodging engine cowlings, flaperon, etc,” said the former Royal Malaysian Air Force officer.

Universiti Putra Malaysia Aerospace Engineering lecturer Associate Professor Dr Kamarul Arifin Ahmad said debris should be found scattered and floating if it dove at high speed.

He said since there was no major debris found at the search area, officials should find an alternative to locate the black box.

In its weekly report, Australian Transport Safety Bureau said the search vessel, *Fugro Discovery*, would leave the search area for the last time today and transit to Singapore where it would be readied for its next project, which was unrelated to the search for MH370.

**Bernama**