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SURABAYA, 1ST FEBRUARY 2015 – The search and rescue (SAR) operations led by the National Search and Rescue Agency (BASARNAS) Republic of Indonesia continued today. SAR vessels were mobilized in the primary focus search area to search for more passengers as well as the cockpit. However, harsh weather conditions and strong underwater currents hampered SAR operations in the Java Sea today.

The SAR operation in Makassar Strait is still underway with SAR vessels, sea riders and inflatable boats mobilized in the vicinity of Pare-Pare in South Sulawesi to Majene and Mamuju in West Sulawesi. Local fishermen and residents were also deployed to locate more passengers and plane debris in the area.

Earlier this afternoon, local residents located additional remains suspected to be that of a QZ 8501 passenger on the shoreline of Tubo Tengah village in Majene, West Sulawesi. The remains are now on its way to Makassar and will be flown to Surabaya for identification purposes.

The Disaster Victim Identification Police Department Republic of Indonesia (DVI POLRI) announced that there is no identification release today. DVI POLRI team is currently gathering additional DNA data toward the remaining passengers that are being identified at Bhayangkara Hospital, Surabaya.

To date, BASARNAS has confirmed to have recovered a total of 77 remains of which 64 remains have been identified by DVI POLRI, 12 remains are still being identified and 1 remains have yet to arrive at Bhayangkara Hospital, Surabaya.

AirAsia Indonesia would like to take this opportunity to urge the public seeking progress on the search and evacuation and identification process of QZ 8501 passengers to refer solely to official information from BASARNAS and DVI POLRI.

You may also obtain substantiated information only from authorised AirAsia social media accounts: Facebook(www.facebook.com/AirAsia) and Twitter(www.twitter.com/AirAsia).

Our thoughts and prayers remain with the families and friends of our passengers and colleagues on board QZ 8501.

Note to Editors: We ask that members of the news media do not call the AirAsia Emergency Call Centre, as this line is reserved for family members seeking information about those who may have been on board.

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