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PER 3rd FEBRUARY 2015 22:00 HRS LT (GMT+7)

SURABAYA, 3rd FEBRUARY 2015 – AirAsia Indonesia wishes to update on the latest developments on the search and rescue (SAR) operations of QZ 8501 led by the National Search and Rescue Agency (BASARNAS) Republic of Indonesia.

SAR operations in the primary focus area around Karimata Strait and Java Sea continued today. SAR vessels and sea divers were deployed to locate more QZ 8501 passengers and plane debris around the area. Earlier today, SAR divers were able to recover six additional remains suspected to be that of QZ 8501 passengers. The remains were found on the Java Sea floor, near the area where the fuselage wreckage was located. The six remains are currently on their way to Pangkalan Bun, Central Borneo.

Meanwhile, SAR operations in Makassar Strait continues with SAR vessels, sea riders, inflatable boats deployed in order to observe the sea in the vicinity of Mamuju, West Sulawesi until Pinrang and Selayar Island, South Sulawesi. Earlier this morning, local fishermen located additional remains suspected to be that of a QZ 8501 passenger on the shoreline in Pinrang, South Sulawesi. The remains are now already in Makassar and will be flown to Surabaya tomorrow morning for identification purposes.

In Surabaya, 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 towards the remaining passengers who are currently being identified at Bhayangkara Hospital, Surabaya.

To date, BASARNAS has confirmed to have recovered a total of 91 remains of which 64 remains have been identified by DVI POLRI, 13 remains are still being identified and 14 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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