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AS PER 19 JANUARY 2015 20:30 HRS LT (GMT+7))

SURABAYA, 19TH JANUARY 2015 – AirAsia Indonesia wishes to update on the latest developments on the search and rescue (SAR) operations led by the National Search and Rescue Agency (BASARNAS) Republic of Indonesia.

The search and recovery mission continued today as the sea divers began to descend in the Java Sea floor to observe the fuselage wreckage this morning. During the dive, SAR divers were able to recover more debris such as passenger windows, seats and other interior parts believed to be from the QZ 8501 aircraft from the seafloor. However, the floating mission continued to be hampered due to high waves and adverse weather conditions. No additional passenger recoveries were reported today.

Meanwhile, the two passengers that were recovered yesterday were flown from Pangkalan Bun to Surabaya this afternoon and arrived at Bhayangkara Hospital at 16.20 HRS LT 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 more DNA evidence toward the remaining passengers.

To date, BASARNAS has confirmed to have recovered a total of 53 remains of which 45 remains have been identified by DVI POLRI, 8 remains are still being identified.

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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