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SURABAYA, 31ST JANUARY 2015 – The National Search and Rescue Agency (BASARNAS) Republic of Indonesia officially resumed the search and rescue (SAR) operations today. SAR vessels continued to be mobilized this morning to observe the primary search area in Karimata Strait and Java Sea using sonar equipment to locate more passengers as well as search for the cockpit.

In addition, Makassar's SAR team continued the search and rescue efforts in the vicinity of Mamuju, West Sulawesi and Pare-Pare, South Sulawesi. The SAR operation was supported by two SAR vessels, four inflatable boats and sea riders. Local fishermen and residents were also deployed to locate additional remains and aircraft wreckage that are possibly still in the area. No additional recoveries were reported today.

The Disaster Victim Identification Police Department Republic of Indonesia (DVI POLRI) today announced that four passengers have been identified as: Nanang Priyo Widodo (male), Donna Indah Nurwatie (female), Adrian Fernando (male), and Viona Florensa Abraham (female). AirAsia Indonesia has officially handed over the remains to the respective families this afternoon.

To date, BASARNAS has confirmed to have recovered a total of 76 remains of which 64 remains have been identified by DVI POLRI, and 12 remains are still being identified 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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