

Increase in overall cost to perform Haj this year

By Nor Ain Mohamed Radhi - April 22, 2022 @ 4:53pm



TH group managing director and chief executive officer Datuk Seri Amrin Awaluddin said pilgrims from the B40 group would have to pay RM10,980 per person, while the non-B40 group would pay RM12,980 per person. - NSTP/ASWADI ALIAS.

KUALA LUMPUR: Lembaga Tabung Haji (TH) today announced two payment rates for performing Haj for the Muassasah pilgrims, B40 and non-B40, following the increase in overall cost to perform the religious rituals at RM25,540 per person this year.

TH group managing director and chief executive officer Datuk Seri Amrin Awaluddin said pilgrims from the B40 group would have to pay RM10,980 per person, while the non-B40 group would pay RM12,980 per person.

"Pilgrims from the B40 group will pay 43 per cent from the total cost to perform the religious rituals, while the non-B40 group will pay 51 per cent.

"The remaining cost of RM14,560 (57 per cent) for the B40 group, and RM12,560 (49 per cent) for the non-B40 group will be borne by TH," he told a press conference today.

Also present were TH's Haj executive director Datuk Seri Syed Saleh Syed Abdul Rahman and TH's general manager (Haj Management) Nurrinanuwar Shamsuddin.

Previously, the Haj payment rate to all Muassasah pilgrims was fixed at RM9,980 per person, after part of the cost was borne by TH through Haj financial support.

He said the increase was unavoidable after taking into account the hike in Value-added Tax (VAT) from five per cent to 15 per cent and other additional service charges including Haj visa and insurance coverage for Covid-19 as imposed by Saudi Arabia.

Amrin added that TH was now making final preparations to bring Malaysian pilgrims to the Holy Land, after not being able to do so for two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"TH will be issuing offer letters to the pilgrims starting Monday (April 25)."

Meanwhile, Syed Saleh said the cost of Haj increased every year due to inflation in Saudi Arabia, foreign currency movements, new taxes and charges in Saudi Arabia, improve services by TH and development in Makkah and Madinah.

He said TH has maintained the Haj payment rate of RM9,980 for the past 13 years even though the cost of performing the Haj had increased every year, up to 103 per cent.

Yesterday, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) Datuk Idris Ahmad announced that Malaysia's haj quota for this year stood at 14,306 pilgrims.

The new haj quota for Malaysian pilgrims was only 45 per cent of the normal quota of 31,600 Malaysian pilgrims given by Saudi Arabia, which was announced in Jan 2020, before the lockdown was enforced due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Idris said the pilgrims approved to perform haj are those aged under 65 years old; with no chronic disease; have a Covid-19 vaccination certificate and must submit a negative Reverse transcription-polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test result within 72 hours from the time of departure.