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Tabung Haji  
NEXT YEAR'S HAJ FEES FIXED AT RM8,585

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 30 (Bernama) -- Tabung Haji has standardised the fees for performing the pilgrimage next year at RM8,585.

Its chairman Tan Sri Ahmad Razali Mohamed Ali said for the last haj season, pilgrims from peninsular Malaysia were charged RM8,131, while those from Sabah and Sarawak had to pay an additional RM400.

Tabung Haji was subsidising pilgrims' expenditure next year by RM500, and the fees would cover air tickets, accommodation, food and other essentials, he told reporters here today.

Ahmad Razali said for the next haj season beginning in March, 44,033 people were eligible to perform the pilgrimage because of sufficient savings but only 22,000 could go due to the quota set.

He said Tabung Haji had agreed to use the services of Air Asia and a Saudi airline.

Tabung Haji has also selected 10 travel agencies from 42 applicants to handle the prospective pilgrims.

Ahmad Razali said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was expected to open the RM16.8 million haj complex in Jeddah, known as Wisma Tabung Haji, but the date has not been fixed.

The complex has two blocks -- one a five-storey apartment block and the other a pilgrims' management office.

He also said Tabung Haji had obtained Cabinet approval to build a new haj complex near the KL International Airport mosque in Sepang.

The project costing between RM70 million and RM80 million is expected to begin soon.

-- BERNAMA  
MEO YBY