

PM pledges aid for injured Malaysian pilgrims

MalaysiaKini.com

Sept 12th, 2015

The government is to provide immediate aid to the Malaysian pilgrims who were injured after a crane collapsed on the Grand Mosque in Makkah yesterday, said Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak.

Malaysian officials in the holy city said six Malaysian pilgrims were injured in the incident which reportedly claimed the lives of 87 worshippers at about 5pm (10pm in Malaysia).

At least 184 more people were injured in the incident, reports said.

"I understand that several Malaysian pilgrims were injured. Aid will be provided as fast as possible," Najib posted on his Twitter account early today.

The tragedy occurred ahead of the annual haj pilgrimage which is due later this month. Millions of Muslims from around the world will converge on the holy city between Sept 21 and 26.

The crane, believed to be one of several being used in the expansion project of the Grand Mosque, collapsed during heavy rain and when Muslims were performing the Asar prayers.

Bernamea journalist Mohd Shukri Ishak, who is covering the haj pilgrimage under a Tabung Haji programme, said the heavy rain yesterday experienced in Makkah was the fourth in a period of one month.

- Bernama

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Source: <http://www.malaysiakini.com/news/312060>