

**Crane Collapse : Government Will Ensure Smooth Compensation Pay Out - Abdul Azeez
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MELAKA, Oct 9 (Bernama) -- The government has assured that the payment for compensation announced by the Saudi Arabian government for Haj pilgrims who were killed and injured in the Makkah crane tragedy on Sept 11, will be handled in a smooth and proper manner.

Tabung Haji (TH) chairman Datuk Seri Abdul Azeez Abdul Rahim said the matter would be discussed in a meeting with the Saudi Arabian government soon when all pilgrims have returned home safely.

"TH together with the minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom will leave for Jeddah to discuss this matter and conduct a post-mortem of the incident.

"All these must be discussed in detail. I am confident that with the close rapport established between the Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak) and the Saudi Arabian government the discussion will be favourable," he told reporters here today.

He was speaking after the investiture ceremony in conjunction with the 77th birthday of Melaka Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Mohd Khalil Yaakob here.

Abdul Azeez, who was conferred the title of Darjah Cemerlang Seri Melaka which carries the title 'Datuk Wira', was among 35 award and medal recipients at the first session of the investiture ceremony today.

Seven Malaysian pilgrims were killed in the crane tragedy and according to Saudi Press Agency, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman had ordered payment of SR1 million (RM1.14 million) to be paid to each victim's family; SR1 million to those with permanent disability; and SR500K for each of the injured.

Elaborating further, Abdul Azeez said TH would visit all the injured victims and families of those killed in the incident, soon.

Meanwhile, Datuk Zukri Valentino Mohd Ali who received the Darjah Pangkuan Seri Melaka (DPSM) which carries the title 'Datuk' said, the award was in recognition of his services in the communication field.

The Home Ministry's head of corporate communication division, who had served as press secretary to Mohd Khalil when the latter was Information Minister said, Mohd Khalil was a firm and dedicated leader.

"I am deeply touched and honoured to receive this award and am thankful to Tun Mohd Khalil Yaakob," said Zukri who had served Bernama as a journalist for 11 years beginning

1983.

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