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Minister plans Saudi visit to discuss haj SOP

By [Noorazura Abdul Rahman](#) - March 30, 2021 @ 3:52pm



Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) Datuk Seri Dr Zulkifli Mohamad Al-Bakri will visit Saudi Arabia to inquire further details about the standard operating procedures (SOP) for haj pilgrims. - Bernama pic

ALOR STAR: Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) Datuk Seri Dr Zulkifli Mohamad Al-Bakri will visit Saudi Arabia to inquire further details about the standard operating procedures (SOP) for haj pilgrims.

He said discussions on the SOP between Malaysia and Saudi Arabia would be held as preparation for the coming haj season.

"Insya-Allah, I plan to visit in the next one two weeks so that we can understand and discuss on the SOP (for haj) from both countries.

"I can't confirm the exact date (of the trip), but the outcome will be elaborated in great detail when I return from there," he said after an event held at Institut al-Quran Darul Aman (IQDAR) here, today.

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Zulkifli was previously reported saying that SOP for haj pilgrims would be reviewed from time to time to ensure that they fulfil the requirements set by the Saudi government.

He said the SOP had to be presented to the Saudi government to be finalised and subsequently endorsed, to ensure that Malaysian haj pilgrims would not face difficulties during the haj ritual process.

On vaccination for the pilgrims, he said he would seek further guidelines on the matter would from the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry (Mosti).

This, he explained, would only be made after getting the approval from the Saudi government along with the requirements required for prilgrims.

"MOSTI and the Health Ministry have agreed to work with us in this (vaccination programme for pilgrims), but we have to first obtain the approval from the Saudi government and find out what the requirements are.

"After that, we will work towards fulfilling those requirements as much as we can for the sake of the pilgrims," he said.

Earlier this month, the kingdom's Health Minister Dr Tawfiq al-Rabiah said pilgrims must be vaccinated against Covid-19 to perform the haj.

Last year, Saudi Arabia limited the pilgrimage to only 1,000 Muslims amidst the pandemic.

It was earlier reported that Malaysia has been granted an additional haj quota of 10,000 which will be implemented after Covid-19 is under control and the haj operations can resume.

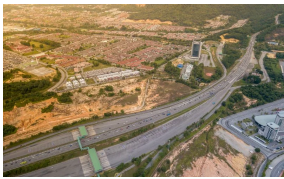
Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the matter had been agreed on by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman during his visit to the kingdom earlier this month.

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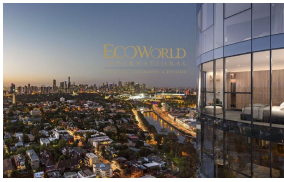
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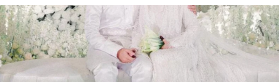
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