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TH subsidises almost half of cost for haj

KUALA TERENGGANU: Despite the increase in applications by Muslims wanting to perform the haj, Tabung Haji (TH) is only given a quota of 22,320 Malaysian pilgrims for next year.

A TH statement said the number is the quota set by the Saudi Arabian government. However, it said TH will subsidise almost half of the expenditures incurred by the pilgrims. This amounts to about RM200mil in subsidy.

The statement said TH wants to ensure the payment to perform haj by Malaysian Muslims remains at RM9,980.

The RM9,980 payment has been maintained for the past nine years.

"The cost of performing the haj had increased to RM19,550, which is 3.5% from last year's cost and what a pilgrim pays is only 51%.

"Despite the increase, TH has decided to absorb the remaining 49% of the cost of RM9,570," the statement said yesterday.

The first hatch of haj pilgrims is scheduled to depart for the holy land on July 24, 2017, while the last return flight after the haj season is scheduled for Oct 4, 2017.