



DATE	2 / 9 / 2012	SECTION	National
PAGE	S2	COLUMN	NEWS

Only 633 haj pilgrims from state this year

KUCHING: The number of Muslim pilgrims from the state has dropped over the last two years. Assistant Minister in the Chief Minister's Office (Islamic Affairs) Datuk Daud Abdul Rahman said the state, which used to record more than 1,000 pilgrims a year previously, only registered 633 pilgrims this year.

"This is a further drop from about 800 pilgrims last year," he said when officiating the Kursus Perdana Haji Musim Haji here yesterday.

His text of his speech was read by State Islamic Council chairman Datuk Puteh Matzen.

Thus, Daud said various efforts

had been taken by Tabung Haji and the State Islamic Council to encourage Muslims to go on the haj.

"Those who have the opportunity to go on the pilgrimage should make full use of the opportunity," he said.

The 633 pilgrims from the state will leave for Saudi Arabia on Sept 18.