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14,700 M'sian pilgrims in Saudi

MECCA: Approximately 14,700 or 53% of the total 28,000 Malaysian haj pilgrims have arrived in the Holy Land so far.

The head of the Malaysian groups of pilgrims Datuk Syed Saleh Syed Abdul Rahman said that as of yesterday, 42 haj flights had departed from Malaysia.

"We are expecting the departure of 35 more haj flights soon," he said at the Tabung Haji headquarters here.

Syed Saleh also said Tabung Haji was thankful that none of the Malaysian pilgrims were reported to have been infected with severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) detected in Saudi Arabia.

"Tabung Haji has convened a meeting with the Saudi Arabian Health Ministry Contagious Disease Division director and was told that none of the pilgrims were infected with the coronavirus, which causes SARS." — Bernama