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Johor sultan not performing haj

JOHOR BARU: Sultan of Johor Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar said he will not perform the haj as planned with his family this year after receiving advice from doctors following his recent angioplasty procedure.

The ruler said the rest of his family, including Permaisuri Johor Raja Zarith Sofiah Sultan Idris Shah and four of their children, would, however, proceed with the pilgrimage and had embarked on their journey from Johor yesterday.

Accompanying the royal family are a few state officials and palace staff.

"After undergoing angioplasty four days ago, my doctors advised me not to perform the haj because it involves long-distance travel and many physical challenges.

"My family and their entourage did not want to go without me, but it is my wish that they do so. I want the state officials and my staff to perform the haj because they may not get the chance to do so in future.

"As much as I would like to be with them, I accept Allah's wisdom and that He knows best," said Sultan Ibrahim on his Facebook page yesterday.

Other members of the royal family performing the haj are Tunku Puteri Johor Tunku Tun Aminah, Tunku Temenggong Johor Tunku Idris, Tunku Panglima Johor Tunku Abdul Rahman and Tunku Putera Johor Tunku Abu Bakar.

Sultan Ibrahim said he and his wife had performed the haj together in 1985, and after their son, Tunku Laksamana Johor Tunku Abdul Jalil, died last year, the family had planned to perform the pilgrimage together.

He said the royal family decided to include a few state officials and palace staff in the group and appoint someone from the entourage to perform the haj on behalf of Tunku Abdul Jalil.

Johor Islamic Religious Council adviser Datuk Nooh Gadut, who is part of the entourage, will perform



Sultan of Johor Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar (fourth from left) praying for his family's safe journey to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, at Senai International Airport in Johor Baru yesterday. Among those with him are Permaisuri of Johor Raja Zarith Sofiah Sultan Idris Shah (third from right), Tunku Mahkota Johor Tunku Ismail Sultan Ibrahim (second from right), his wife, Che' Puan Khaleeda Bustamani, and Tunku Puteri Johor Tunku Tun Aminah. Pic courtesy of sultan of Johor's Facebook page

the "Haj badal", or proxy haj, on behalf of the late prince.

The ruler prayed for the safety of his family and fellow Muslims.

"I hope that all those who are performing their pilgrimage this year will be safe and that their haj will be

accepted. To all Muslims, I wish you a blessed Aidiladha."

Sultan Ibrahim and Tunku Mahkota Johor Tunku Ismail Sultan Ibrahim were present at the royal hangar at Senai International Airport before the royal entourage de-

parted for Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, yesterday.

Present were Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin, his wife, Datin Seri Rosni Omar, executive council members and state officials.