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Be wary of agents charging fees to get pilgrimage quota

KUALA LUMPUR: The Pilgrims Fund Board (Tabung Haji) yesterday reminded potential haj pilgrims not to fall victim to any quarters or agents who charged certain fees to get them included in the haj quota.

Its managing director and chief executive officer, Datuk Ismee Ismail, said Tabung Haji had never appointed any agents, except for its registered and advertised travel and pilgrims management agencies, to manage haj pilgrims.

"If in doubt, future pilgrims can check the list of these agencies with Tabung Haji," he told Bernama after leading 14 Tabung Haji officers to visit Wisma Bernama here yesterday.

The Tabung Haji delegation spent two hours in the national news agency's Editorial Department, Bernama TV and Bernama Radio24.

On the report about a syndicate involved in cutting the queue of Mecca-bound pilgrims in the Tabung Haji Haj Management Information System, Ismee said Tabung Haji had taken appropriate measures to increase the protection on the system.

"For pilgrims who had just returned from Mecca last year, our system will not accept or register them again for the next five years. If, after five years, they decided to reregister, they still have to wait for their turns," he said.

"Our concept is easy. First come first serve and those who have performed the haj will have a very slim chance to go again unless they are going as 'mahram' (chaperone) or in line of duty," he said.

Ismee also said that the haj quota for this year is 27,800 pilgrims. - Bernama