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TABUNG HAJI TO RAISE HAJ SUBSIDY

KUALA LUMPUR: The Pilgrims' Fund Board (Tabung Haji) is increasing its subsidy allocation for next year's haj season. Its group managing director and chief executive officer Datuk Johan Abdullah said factors such as airfares, accommodation and the currency rate should be taken into account in determining the cost before a subsidy amount could be derived. "The haj cost increases every year," he said after the launch of the Iqra programme by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom yesterday. Jamil Khir said Tabung Haji spent more than RM160 million to subsidise pilgrims during the last season to keep the amount at RM9,980 per person. The actual cost was RM18,890 per person. – Bernama