

More than 6,000 EPF members register for haj within five days

KUALA LUMPUR: A total 6,270 Muslim Employees Provident Fund (EPF) members have registered with the Pilgrims Fund (Tabung Haji) from Jan 3 until Monday.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom said the facility, announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak in the 2012 budget, received overwhelming response with about 1,000 applications a day since Jan 3.

"Our counters were full on the first day because many wanted to register to perform the haj. They need to have at least RM9,980, under the current rate, to perform the haj," he told reporters after a thanksgiving ceremony for TH's successful haj operation last year, here yesterday.

When tabling the 2012 budget, Najib had announced an EPF withdrawal scheme for the haj, to be implemented from Jan 3.

Under the initiative, EPF contributors with a minimum savings of RM1,300 can register for the haj at any Tabung Haji counter.

EPF public relations general manager Nik Affendi Jaafar in an earlier statement, had said under the scheme, EPF members could register using their Account 1 at all Tabung Haji counters to get their turn to perform the haj.

He said the registration could also be done at all Bank Rakyat and Bank Islam branches. Members need only bring their MyKard and latest EPF statement. On the haj quota this year, Jamil Khir said an application would be made for additional quota at a meeting in Jeddah in April.

Meanwhile, he said the cost to perform the haj for Malaysian pilgrims at RM9,980 was the lowest as compared to Thailand (RM16,000), Singapore (RM18,000), Indonesia (RM15,000 to RM18,000) and Brunei (RM18,000).
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