

Over 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 Tuesday.

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.— Bernama