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Use Saudi influence to increase Haj quota, PM urged

THE Prime Minister is urged to use his relationship with the Saudi Arabia royal family to increase the annual Haj quota for Malaysians from 22,000 to 50,000.

Pandan MP Rafizi Ramli said the current quota of 22,000 pilgrims a year was inadequate considering

the huge number of people waiting for the opportunity to perform the pilgrimage.

Rafizi said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak should negotiate with Saudi royalty to possibly increase the numbers to 50,000 a year.

"He is close to the royal family so I am sure he can work something out.

"That way we can cut down the waiting period from 70 years to 35 years," he told a press conference at Parliament House.

Rafizi said data from Lembaga

Tabung Haji showed over two million people registered to perform the Haj.

Rafizi said he had also questioned Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom in Dewan Rakyat about the long wait to perform the Haj.