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## No pilgrim quota for each state, says Tabung Haji Chairman

**KUCHING:** Lembaga Tabung Haji of Malaysia (Malaysian Pilgrimage Fund Board ) does not allocate any quota for each state, including Sarawak , for the number of Muslims performing the 'haj' each year.

Its Chairman Tan Sri Dato Sri Abu Musa Asa'ari Mohamed Nor said Tabung Haji, at present, was still using the system of selection based on the registration process.

"The selection system being used is based on the process of 'first-come-first-serve' basis," he said when asked to comment on the state's concern that the total number of Muslims going for the haj from Sarawak continued to decrease each year, with only about 600 this year compared to 1,200 two years ago.

Assistant Minister in the Chief Minister's Office (Islamic Affairs) Datuk Haji Daud Abdul Rahman had said that the significant drop in three years had caused concern among Muslims in the state, espe-

cially those who want to perform the haj.

"This is to prevent favouritism or jumping the queue. So the allegation that we practise the selection based on the state's quota is not true," Abu Musa told reporters yesterday after the presentation of business tithe to Tabung Baitulmal Sarawak at the Chief Minister 's Office at Wisma Bapa Malaysia in Petra Jaya here yesterday.

Explaining further, Abu Musa said should the quota system be used for each state, it would create problems for those wanting to perform the haj.

"So if the quota system based on each state is applied, this will not be fair to others because we see that there is no increase in the number of Muslims in each state performing the haj.

"The selection is done based on the time of registration. The number of pilgrims from a state can be less because it is not yet their turn and not because of quota," he explained.