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Haj quota set by Saudi Arabian government

THE quota for Malaysian pilgrims allowed to perform the Haj is set by the Saudi Arabian government.

The figure is based on the agreement by all member countries of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in 1987 where the number of pilgrims allowed will be 0.1 per cent of the respective country's population.

"For Malaysia which has a population of 27.9 million people, the quota in 2011 was 27,900 pilgrims," Minister in the Chief Minister's Department Datuk Nasir Sakaran said.

Tabung Haji, he added, does not practise the Haji quota according to states.

Nasir said this when replying to a question from Balung assemblyman Datuk Syed Abas Syed Ali in the State Assembly sitting yesterday.

According to Nasir, Tabung Haji practises an open registration system for all those planning to perform the Haj and under the system, it is a first-come-first-served basis.

"In Sabah, as of July 10 this year, a total of 25,282 people have registered with 359,153 depositors compared to the national figure of 953,136 registered with 7.7 million depositors," he said.