

TARIKH	19 / 6 / 2012	SECTION	National
MUKA SURAT	9	RUANGAN	7

28,000 may be given H1N1 jabs before journey

KANGAR: The 28,000 haj pilgrims may need to get the pandemic H1N1 vaccination to shield them from the dreaded flu before their trip, if the need arises.

Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Mashitah Ibrahim said the measures would only be taken if there was a major outbreak especially in September when the first batch of pilgrims leaves.

"Following the recent influenza A (H1N1) outbreak, Tabung Haji is ready for any eventuality during the haj.

As for now, the situation is still under control and only isolated cases were reported, thanks to drastic prevention measures taken by the Health Ministry.

"Currently, Tabung Haji had only

made it mandatory for the meningitis vaccination to be given to the pilgrims.

"The vaccination could be obtained at any government hospital or clinic recognised by Tabung Haji but the H1N1 vaccination is not mandatory."

Mashitah added that pilgrims would, however, be required to undergo a full check-up as it was a basic requirement to be healthy to perform the umrah or the haj.

"Pilgrims do not need to wait for orders from Tabung Haji if they suffer flu-like symptoms.

"All they need to do is see a doctor and get themselves checked out cured or treated.

The *New Straits Times* had reported an influenza A (H1N1) outbreak at

a National Service camp in Kuala Nerang, Kedah, on Thursday evening, which affected close to 100 trainees.

Deputy Health Minister Datuk Rosnah Abdul Rashid Shirlin said the health authorities had followed safety procedures to contain the situation at the Dusun Resort campsite and there was no cause for alarm.

She said the 15 trainees who were infected had been isolated and quarantined while those with flu-like symptoms had been attended to by medical personnel.

Rosnah had also described the outbreak as non-critical and urged parents to remain calm.

All the 15 trainees, including four girls who were admitted after falling ill on Wednesday have already been discharged.