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Health screening for pilgrims

PRECAUTION: Tests to ensure pilgrims aren't at risk to MERS

SHARIFAH MAHSINAH ABDULLAH

WOULD-be pilgrims planning to perform the haj are required to undergo screening tests before their pilgrimage.

The new directive by the Health Ministry is taken in view of the health of the pilgrims before they perform the haj.

"This is to ensure that they are in good health and not susceptible or at risk to the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome-Corona Virus



Datuk Seri Abdul Azeez Abdul Rahim says health screening is a precautionary measure to make sure that pilgrims are healthy.

(MERS-CoV)," said Tabung Haji board chairman Datuk Seri Abdul Azeez Abdul Rahim.

He added that the screening tests were a precaution in reducing the contagion of infection. This was in light of the virus that has claimed

many lives in Saudi Arabia.

"Tabung Haji and the Health Ministry are monitoring the issue closely from time to time. We do not want our people who plan to go to the Holy Land to be infected with this virus.

"Apart from that, Tabung Haji is also working with the authorities in Saudi Arabia to be kept informed at all times so that we are of the condition of Malaysian pilgrims."

"We want to know their condition, whether they are in good condition or if they are infected."

He said this yesterday after launching an entrepreneurial course for the Pengkalan Chepa parliamentary constituency yesterday.

Azeez, who is Baling member of parliament, said Tabung Haji had taken precautionary measures to combat the disease, which include stationing Malaysian medical specialists in the country to assist pilgrims.