

Headline	50-year waiting period for turn to perform haj for M'sian pilgrims		
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## 50-year waiting period for turn to perform haj for M'sian pilgrims

**KUCHING:** Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom yesterday said that technically, Muslims in Malaysia who registered to perform the haj pilgrimage would have to wait for 50 years to be able to do so.

Currently, he said, 1.2 million of the 8.2 million Tabung Haji (TH) depositors were waiting for their turns to perform the pilgrimage.

"How the waiting period can be reduced depending on various factors, including those selected have died or are suffering from illnesses," he told a media conference after the ground-breaking ceremony for the TH Complex and Sarawak TH Hotel by Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud here yesterday.

Also present was TH Chief Executive Officer Datuk Ismee Ismail.

On the haj quota, Jamil Khir said it was determined by the Saudi Arabia government.

On the proposed complex and hotel project, Jamil Khir said when completed, it would facilitate haj operations in Sarawak.

Meanwhile, Abdul Taib, in his speech, called on Muslim to fully utilise the facility when completed.

The project, costing RM204 million, will be developed by TH Properties Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of TH, on a 2.4 hectare site near Kuching, Sentral and the Kuching International Airport.

It is scheduled for completion in February 2017. - Bernama