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Haj pilgrims reciting 'do'a' during the Perdana Haj Course at Masjid Al-Alami MITC in Ayer Keroh, Malacca yesterday. Pic by Rasul Azli Samad

## Medical staff to aid pilgrims

**TABUNG HAJI ASSURANCE:** Saudi Arabia temperatures may reach 50°C

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**T**HE Lembaga Tabung Haji medical team is ready to provide medical assistance to Malaysian pilgrims performing the haj.

Tabung Haji senior general manager Datuk Syed Saleh Syed Abdul Rahman said 250 medical personnel from the Health Ministry would be stationed in strategic places to give treatment to pilgrims.

He said they were prepared to look after those who suffered from heat-related illnesses, such as dehydration and heatstroke.

"The pilgrims have been advised on how to deal with extreme temperatures when they attend haj courses," he said, adding that they had been reminded to drink a lot of water.

He was speaking after Chief Minister Datuk Seri Idris Haron closed the state-level Perdana Haj Course here yesterday.

It was reported that temperatures in Saudi Arabia could reach 50°C in the upcoming haj season.

Saleh reminded Malaysian pilgrims to take the meningococcal quadrivalent vaccine, which was made compulsory by the Saudi Arabian government for those who wished to perform the haj.

He encouraged those aged 60 and above and those with health problems, such as asthma, diabetes, lung and kidney diseases, to get optional seasonal influenza and pneumococcal vaccines as a precaution.

A total of 22,320 Malaysians will perform the haj this year.

The first flight is expected to depart from the Kuala Lumpur International Airport to Madinah on Aug 16.



**Datuk Syed Saleh Syed Abdul Rahman**