

Headline	Elderly given priority to perform haj		
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## 'Elderly given priority to perform haj'

**LEMBAGA** Tabung Haji accords senior citizens priority to perform the haj pilgrimage annually, with 31 per cent of this year's haj quota comprising pilgrims aged 60 and above.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom said the 31 per cent were selected from some 195,000 pilgrims aged 60 and above who are in the waiting list to perform the haj.

He said the number of Malaysians on the waiting list has touched 1.3 million as of October this year.

"Despite senior citizens only making up 15 per cent of the overall number on the haj waiting list, Tabung Haji allocated more than a quarter of this year's quota to this age group. This reflects the priority given to senior citizens, a policy which will continue in coming years," he told the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

Jamil Khir was answering a question from Che Mohamad Zulkifly Jusoh (BN-Setiu), who had asked to what extent senior citizens were given priority to perform the haj.

He said those who had registered to perform the haj with Tabung Haji would immediately be given the date of their departure, with the current waiting period being 50 years.

"Most parents register their children with Tabung Haji upon their birth as the waiting period is long."

Jamil also encouraged those who have performed the haj once to not reapply for a second time to give an opportunity to those who have yet to perform the pilgrimage.

He said 21,960 pilgrims completed the haj this year.