

TARIKH	30 / 11 / 2012	SECTION	National
MUKA SURAT	24	RUANGAN	Prime News

## 'Construction work will not affect haj costs'

**SEPANG:** The construction work to expand the perimeters around Meca will not affect the cost in performing the haj pilgrimage, said Tabung Haji yesterday.

Tabung Haji group managing director and chief executive officer Datuk Ismee Ismail said they were monitoring and looking into the possibility of a rise in costs but assured pilgrims that the rates for haj would remain the same.

"Tabung Haji offers Muslims a chance to perform their haj at the cost of RM9,980. The overall cost is RM15,150 and Tabung Haji will continue the subsidy as long as we can.

"Discussions have been carried out with Saudi Arabian officials on the costs but we will look into this matter further," he said after welcoming home the final batch of pilgrims at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport yesterday.

Ismee said he believed the construction would see some changes in the rates, but it was too early to say whether there would be any impact.

A total of 351 pilgrims returned home yesterday, marking the end of 81 flights that were operated throughout the haj season.

Tabung Haji chairman Tan Sri Abi Musa Asa'ari said there were fewer incidents this year with no serious glitches during their operations.

He said the health issues this year had also improved, with fewer deaths and injuries reported.



*Tan Sri Abi Musa Asa'ari says there were fewer deaths and injuries during the haj this year*