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Amanah Raya to open financial institutions in Islamic countries

IPOH: Amanah Raya Berhad (ARB), a trustee company, will open financial institutions in several Islamic countries to provide haj pilgrimage saving services, says Second Finance Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah.

He said an agreement was signed by the ARB and Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for the purpose and to date three countries had agreed to have the services.

"The money collected will be invested to generate income and provide benefits to all depositors.

"The haj pilgrimage travel and packages will be handled by Lembaga Tabung Haji," he told reporters after handing over a RM550,000 allocation to build a surau at Kampung Baru Tersusun, Jelapang Jaya here yesterday.

Ahmad Husni said the move was aimed at providing haj pilgrimage services to Islamic

countries.

"Most Islamic countries are using tour and travel agency services to manage haj pilgrims. They have no comprehensive facilities in managing haj pilgrims like Tabung Haji," he said.

In KUALA TERENGGANU, Tabung Haji Terengganu is all set ready to manage the haj pilgrims' flights to Mecca starting Oct 9.

Its director, Mohammad Mokhzani Mukhtar said the number of pilgrims from Terengganu had yet to be confirmed but so far it was 2,200.

All haj courses would be completed by the middle of this month while the premier course would be conducted at the Indoor Stadium, Gong Badak Sports Complex on Sept 24 and 25, he told reporters after presenting goods to the poor donated by Kumpulan Puan Sri Datin Rajmin with the cooperation of Tabung Haji yesterday. -Bernama