

KUIS STUDENT AMONG YOUNGEST PILGRIMS FROM KELANTAN

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KOTA BAHARU, Aug 12 (Bernama) -- A final-year Arabic language student of Selangor International Islamic University College (KUIS) is among the youngest pilgrims from Kelantan to go for Haj this season.

Wan Ahmad Syahmie Wan Mustapa, 20, of Lundang, here, said he did not expect to be selected as a mahram (unmarriageable kin for company) to his mother, Faridah Salleh, 43, for the religious sojourn.

"I was shocked when I learned I could go on the pilgrimage. I only started making preparations four months ago. It never struck me that I would be able to set foot on Makkah at this young age.

"I have applied for leave and will be taking my final-year examination after returning from the Holy Land," said the third of four siblings.

He was met by reporters after a sending-off ceremony for pilgrims at the Silver Jubilee Islamic Complex in Panji, here, last night.

The ceremony, officiated by Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Ahmad Yakob, was also attended by Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Senator Datuk Dr Asyraf Wajdi Dusuki, Tabung Haji chairman Datuk Seri Abdul Azeez Abdul Rahim and its board member Tan Sri Shukry Mohd Salleh.

Another pilgrim, Siti Rohana Mustafa, 50, of Machang, said she was sad as she could not perform her pilgrimage with her husband, Muhammad Khaidir Yusof who died two years ago.

"I had registered for the Haj with my husband in 2007 with the hope of going on the journey together but it is not to be with his early demise," she said.

After the ceremony, 150 pilgrims boarded a flight at Sultan Ismail Petra Airport in Pengkalan Chepa before arriving at Kuala Lumpur International Airport at 12.05 am for their onward flight to Madinah at 4.05 this morning.

A total of 1,600 pilgrims from Kelantan will be fulfilling the fifth pillar of Islam during this pilgrimage season.

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