



## NO GOING BACK ON MARCH REGISTRATION DEADLINE-NAHCON



The National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) has told intending pilgrims for 2018 Hajj exercise to register for the religious exercise before the end of March 2018 to fulfill one of the most important pillars of Islam.

The chairman/CEO Barrister Abdullahi Mukhtar Muhammad, disclosed this while interacting with the new leadership of the Association of Hajj and Ummrah Operators in Nigeria (AHUON) who paid him a courtesy visit in Abuja.

According to him, the calendar year for the 2018 hajj will be strictly followed to allow for proper planning especially as it relates to the intending pilgrims' welfare and comfort in Saudi Arabia.

He added that the operation and business of Hajj operations should be handled by core professionals saying Hajj operations "should not be an all-comer affairs or supermarket affair."

"For those who want to perform the 2018 hajj, my advice to them is they should complete their registration on or before the end of March 2018. The calendar of event has changed, and we must work in tandem with what Saudi authorities have put on ground. The 2018 hajj portal will close

in May 2018 and I want to implore our people to key into this by completing their registration on or before March 31, 2018 for proper planning and documentation because Islam as a religion attaches more importance to planning. The registration deadline will not be extended.

The calendar of events for the 2018 hajj will not be altered because it is very clear. Hajj operations must be regulated in such a way that it should be handled by professionals", the NAHCON boss submitted.

Earlier in his speech, the Acting President of AHOUN, Alhaji Salihu Butu commended NAHCON leadership for its support and thanked the commission for the opportunity to work together for the successes that have been recorded during past hajj operations. He added that the association is more concerned about the comfort of pilgrims while in Saudi Arabia for the Holy pilgrimage.

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R- Alh Saliu Butu acting President AHUON, Sheik Abubakar Siddiq (C) and Alh Abdulfatah Abdulmajid immediate President (AHUON)



Abdullahi Modibbo Saleh Commissioner Operations addressing the members of AHUON

Chairman/CEO Barrister Abdullahi Muktar Muhammad addressing members of AHUON



CROSS SECTION OF STAFF DURING THE COURTESY VISIT



CROSS SECTION OF THE EXECUTIVES OF AHUON



L-R Commissioner operations Alh Modibbo Saleh and Commission's Secretary Dr. B.M Tambuwal

## NAHCON INAUGURATES NINE MEMBER INSPECTION TEAM

• Charge members on conduct...

The National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON), has inaugurated a 9-member inspection team with a charge to ensure that the licensed and companies applying for license discharged their responsibilities conscientiously.

Inaugurating the Team, the Chairman/CEO, Barr Abdullahi Muktar Muhammad MON, FCIA stated that the performance of the team is critical to the success or otherwise of the Commission mandate, stressing that their past effort had led to the reduction and weeding out quacks, fake and dubious operators from the business.

He therefore enjoined to uphold the principle of transparency, fairness and justice in the discharge of duties "be good ambassadors of the Commission in the course of the assignment by being fair, firm, courteous and hum-

bled, do not compromise standard in anyway. By so doing, you will not only be building on the success recorded in the past, but you'll be promoting the image of the commission" he said.

Earlier in his address, the Commissioner Operations, Alhaji Abdullahi Modibbo Saleh emphasized the importance of the committee's work to ensure service delivery to the people. According to him, the team should consider the assignment as a national duty and therefore enjoined them to live up to expectation by discharging their duties with upmost attention and commitment.

The committee's terms of reference include inspecting the physical existence of the companies at their given address as contained in their application form, assessing the capacity of the applicant or the operator to be granted license or renewal.

## Around the Globe

### SAUDIS FOUND HELPING ILLEGAL EXPATS WILL FACE 2 YEARS IN PRISON VIOLATORS WILL ALSO BE FINED SR100,000.

Saudi authorities announced that a SR100,000 (\$26,700) fine and up to 2 years in prison will be imposed on people who host or help illegal expats in the country, Arab News reported.

The announcement was made by the spokesman for the Madinah region police, Maj. Hussain Al-Qahtani on Monday, and is part of the Saudi Government's ongoing "Nation without Violators" campaign.

The latest news comes a week after the country's Ministry of Labour and Social Development reported the arrest of 119,850 expats for various violations.

Earlier this year and under the same campaign, Saudi authorities announced they would offer a SR 50,000 (\$13,332) reward to anyone who reports illegal expats to police. In recent weeks, expats in Saudi Arabia "have been advised to carry their resident identification and other relevant documents during police

inspections."

This comes months after illegal immigrants were given a 3 month grace period to regularize their status or leave the country under "A Nation Without Violators" Campaign, which took effect on March 29.

At the time of its launch, Major General Mansour al-Turki, security spokesman of the Ministry of Interior, spoke of the campaign during a press conference, saying:

"The campaign is aimed at all expatriates who do not hold valid iqamas (residency permits) or identification papers in the kingdom and have the residency or labor regulation or both, or those who have entered the Kingdom on Hajj or Umrah visa or transit and have not taken the initiative to depart after the expiry of their visas."

## Travel Guide for Hajj/Umrah International pilgrims.

1. Patronize only NAHCON licensed companies who are listed in National Dailies and NAHCON website.

2. Do not pay into a private account rather pay into company account.

3. Do not pay your money to touts or unregistered company as this is dangerous.

### 4. TIMING.

It is important that you start arranging for your Umrah trip, at least a month to your travelling date. This will enable your NAHCON licensed company of your choice, enough time to complete your visa, accommodation and flight arrangement in good times.

### 5. LUGGAGE.

Do not allow a third party or a stranger to carry or check in your luggage for you in the airport under the pretext of protocol. This is dangerous as prohibited items like drugs could be put in your bag.

### 6. NUMBER OF DAYS.

Duration of stay on your Umrah visa is 30days, don't wait till the last day before you depart the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, it's a must for you to leave the Kingdom before the expiration as Saudi frowns at overstaying beyond the normal 30days.

### 7. TRAVELLING DOCUMENTS.

Intending Umrah Pilgrims are enjoined to keep their travelling documents in their pocket, International passport, Umrah visa, Yellow card, Flight ticket and Contacts of the company in Makkah and Medina Confirm you have Umrah visa in your passport.

### 8. PACKAGE.

When you reach Saudi Arabia confirm if the services are matched with the package you paid for, you should insist on knowing the details of the package you are paying for i.e. class of the Hotel in both Makkah and Medina including transportation.

## NAHCON DISBURSES OVER N400 MILLION AS REFUNDS TO 2017 PILGRIMS

The National Hajj Commission of Nigeria NAHCON has paid the sum of Four Hundred and One Million Naira (N401,291,658.4) to states as refunds for services not rendered during the 2017 Hajj.

Breakdown of the figure shows that Kaduna state got the highest amount of N123,377,108.96 Million among the eleven states, while Zamfara was second with N67,503,914.37 million followed by Sokoto with N66,388,568.76, Cross River got the least amount of N313,180.10

The components of the refund were the Ministry of Hajj deposits for all pilgrims, tent security deposit, feed-

ing or meals not served, Muna/Arafat tent C services not served as well as cooling system, PVC tent services and Zam-Zam not delivered.

Meanwhile the commission has appealed to the affected states to ensure that the refunds are paid immediately to their pilgrims, warning that any state that contravenes directive of delaying payment or refusal to pay the refunds would not only be appropriately sanctioned but referred also referred to the relevant anti-corruption agency for necessary action or prosecution.

Below is the list of the states and the amount reimbursed

S/NO	STATE	AMOUNT REFUNDED (N)
01	ABIA	884,231.59
02	Bauchi	47,875,183.40
03	Cross River	313,180.10
04	Delta	3,157,054.94
05	Gombe	25,182,856.51
06	Kaduna	129,777,108.96
07	Ondo	4,548,471.84
08	Osun	31,726,699.29
09	Plateau	23,934,388.65
10	Sokoto	66,388,568.76
11	Zamfara	67,503,914.37
	TOTAL	401,291,658.41

## STAKEHOLDERS COMMEND NAHCON ON N300,000 DEPOSIT

The ongoing consultative process by the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) which culminated in the fixing of Hajj deposit for 2018 Hajj at N300,000 (Three Hundred Thousand Naira) has been communicated by a spectrum of Nigeria Muslims.

Majority of the respondent who spoke to the Hajj news letter expressed satisfaction over the arrangement and appreciated the performance of the commission in the preparation for 2018 Hajj.

Ali Mamman and aide of the chairman of Jamaatu Izalatul Bidia

Waiqamatul Sunna (JIBWIS), commended the NAHCON'S initiation which he said will lessen the pressure on both the rich and the poor alike as it would accord everyone equal opportunity to partake in Hajj. Said he "I make it as a good initiative. Tallow people to pay instalmentally is an advantage. They have really done very well."

He however advised those who don't have the means not to impose in themselves the burden they knew they count bear as according to him pilgrimage was only incumbent on only those who can afford it.

## NEWS FROM THE STATES

## OSUN COMMENCES REFUND OF N13,500 TO 2016 HAJJ PILGRIMS

The Osun State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board has commenced refund of money paid by the 2016 hajj pilgrims for certain services which were not rendered to them during the exercise.

The refund of N13,500 to each of the 2016 Hajj pilgrims from the state, was approved by the state, governor, Mr Rauf Aregbesola sequel to the release of the fund to the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria.

The Chairman of the Osun State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board who is also the Amir Hajj for the state, Alhaji Zikrullahi Olakunle Hassan, said the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) had met with the Saudi Authority over the un-rendered services during 2016 Hajj exercise and has therefore received the money for onward refund to the pilgrims who participated in the exercise. "We urge all the affected pilgrims to send details of their accounts to the Administrative Secretary of the board or visit the Board's office immediately for refund. We appreciate Governor Rauf Aregbesola on his prompt approval of the refund and his unalloyed support to the board. We thank the National Hajj Commission for facilitating the release of the refund from the relevant Saudi Arabia agencies," he said

## 2018 HAJJ: FCT MUSLIM PILGRIMS' WELFARE BOARD BEGINS COLLECTION OF DEPOSIT

The FCT Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board has hinted of plans to commence the registration of its intending pilgrims for the 2018 Hajj on Monday 4th of December, 2018 across the six area councils of the territory. A statement from the board's spokesperson, Muhammad Lawal Aliyu said that intending pilgrims who wish to perform the pilgrimage through the Board are to present a bank draft of minimum of N1, 000,000.00 payable to the FCT Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board, Abuja and their International Passports to book for a seat .