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in pilgrims' accommodation, feeding,  
transportation — DG



# Hajj Reporters Weekly

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**CSO urge quality services to Pilgrims, Lauds formation of Hajj service providers Group**

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# Hajj Reporters

## Weekly



## EXCLUSIVE HAJJ 2024 OFFERS

### STANDARD PACKAGE

#### INCLUSIVE

- 3 star hotel in Madina
- 3 star hotel in Makkah
- Standard Tent in Mina and Arafat with packed meals

MINIMUM  
DEPOSIT

**2M**

### STANDARD PLUS PACKAGE

#### INCLUSIVE

- 3 star hotel in Madina
- 3 star hotel in Makkah
- VIP Tent B in Mina and Arafat with Buffet all day beverages

MINIMUM  
DEPOSIT

**3M**

### 4 STAR PACKAGE

#### INCLUSIVE

- Madina Hotel: Diya Al Eiman or Similar
- Makkah Hotel: Al Ebaa or Similar
- Hotels with Breakfast and Dinner
- VIP Tent B in Mina and Arafat with Buffet Meals and all day beverages

MINIMUM DEPOSIT

**4M**

### 4 STAR PACKAGE

#### INCLUSIVE

- Madina Hotel: Anwar Movenpick or Similar
- Makkah Hotel: Movenpick Makkah Hajar Tower or Similar
- Hotels with Breakfast and Dinner
- VIP Tent A in Mina and Arafat with Buffet Meals and all day beverages

MINIMUM DEPOSIT

**6M**

### INCLUSIVE ON ALL PACKAGES



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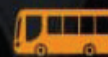
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# Hajj Reporters Weekly



**KANO IN FOCUS with MUSTAPHA HODI**

Director General of the Kano State Pilgrims Welfare Board, Alhaji Laminu Rabi'u Danbappa after arriving from Saudi Arabia

The Director General of the Kano State Pilgrims Welfare Board, Alhaji Laminu Rabi'u Danbappa has declared that his top priority in 2024 Hajj is improvement in the area of accommodation, feeding and transport for the state's pilgrims.

The DG stated this while addressing Hajj Centre Officers from the 44 Local Government areas of the state immediately after his return from pre-Hajj tour in Saudi Arabia on Saturday in Kano.

In a statement by the board's Public Relations Officer, Suleman Dederi, the DG said he would do his best to ensure seamless Hajj operation.

He said Danbappa had emphasized on pilgrims' welfare while in Saudi Arabia in order to get value for their money and be comfortable while worship Allah.

"His focus is on improving accommodation, feeding, and transportation for pilgrims in the state for the upcoming 2024 Hajj," Dederi said in the statement.

He said Danbappa took the opportunity to congratulate the state governor, Abba Yusuf on Supreme Court victory.

"He urged all management staff of the Board to provide necessary cooperation to achieve the set goals. Alhaji Laminu Rabi'u promised to work in tandem with all staff to attain the objectives.

"Expressing appreciation, he commended Governor Alhaji Abba Kabir Yusuf for consistently providing opportunities to the Board," the statement concluded.

## 2024 Hajj: My priority is improvement in pilgrims' accommodation, feeding, transportation — DG







# Hajj Reporters Weekly



NAHCON Chairman, Jalal Ahmed Arabi (3rd from right) received Group of Saudi Based Hajj Service Providers lead by Alh Musa Hamid Jibril (3rd from left) and other Executive members of the Group

## CSO urge quality services to Pilgrims, Lauds formation of Hajj service providers Group

Independent Hajj Reporters, (IHR), a civil society organization that monitors and advocates workable Hajj policies has thrown its weight in support of the coming together of Saudi based accommodation and feeding providers under one umbrella.

The service providers recently decided to form a group and work together to ensure prompt and efficient service is rendered to pilgrims during Hajj.

The formation of the group according to IHR, is timely considering the challenges of insufficient tents and feeding experienced by pilgrims in Mina during the 2023 Hajj.

IHR in a statement Tuesday signed by its national coordinator Ibrahim Mohammed, said it particularly commends the group for adopting a merit-based approach by selecting the Chairman/CEO of Shuraka'a Alkhair Group, Musa Hamid Jibril as its leader.

"With record successes of serving Nigerian pilgrims for decades during Hajj and with the associated supports he has rendered to many of his clients, we believe Alh. Musa Hamid has the capacity and experience to lead the group in serving Nigerian pilgrims effectively and efficiently," IHR said.

The CSO added that having been providing series of Hajj services to the Guests of Al Rahman from Nigeria and many African Countries, "it is our belief that Musa Hamid will deploy his vast expertise in leading other companies within the group to provide commensurate services to our dear pilgrims and ensure that they provides a conducive and memorable environment to our pilgrims in the Holy Land"

IHR also said the formation of the group will make it easier for the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) to coordinate and supervise services rendered to Nigerian pilgrims during Hajj

operations.

"Interacting and interfacing with multiple service providers at the same time creates human resources and logistics challenges to NAHCON especially during off shore operations.

"About 15 to 20 different Hajj service providers are serving 36 states from the same country and NAHCON is obligated to meet with all of them thus creating serious challenges in oversight and supervisory issues.

"With this group in place, NAHCON only needs to interface with the leadership and communicate effectively"

IHR said monitoring Hajj service providers requires close contacts with pilgrims to extract feedbacks and draw attention of service providers whenever there is shortage or shortfall in the standards agreed upon in the contractual agreements.

It also said such process should be conducted in a

seamless manner using an on-the-spot problem solving approach.

"That is why NAHCON creates different committees to coordinate and manage different services like Feeding, accommodation, Airlifts, movement of pilgrims to and from Masha'ir, health services, inspectorate evaluation and compliance and other administrative duties.

"Just like AHUON, NAHCON can now communicate to the Saudi based service providers via their leadership especially in the areas of quality of services" IHR said.

NAHCON Chairman, Jalal Ahmed Arabi (3rd from right) received Group of Saudi Based Hajj Service Providers lead by Alh Musa Hamid Jibril (3rd from left) and other Executive members of the Group

*E- Sign  
Ibrahim Muhammed  
Independent Hajj Reporters  
23rd January 2023*



# Hajj Reporters Weekly

## TRAVELOGUE: Saudi reforms on Hajj services - my Hajj conference Story Part (II)

From **Ibrahim Muhammed** in Saudi Arabia

My participation in the Hajj and Umrah conferences was to explore and navigate the Hajj communication channels. Over 250 Journalists from 132 Media houses covered the conference inclusive of Hajj Reporters. There are over 81 speakers from various sectors and high-level delegations from more than 70 states.

This year's Hajj and Umrah conference will be remembered as a year of partnerships, collaborations, the unveiling of cutting-edge technologies, reshaping Hajj service delivery and a lesson to Hajj participating countries to either shape up or they will shape behind within the framework of new Hajj ecosystem.

On the second day of the conference, a discussion centred on Diplomatic Collaboration in Hajj and Umrah Operations underscored the integrated efforts of diplomatic representatives both within and outside Saudi Arabia. The topic explored the multifaceted role of diplomatic representations in coordinating with various sectors to facilitate rituals for pilgrims and shedding more light on the coordination and communication required to provide essential support and assistance for pilgrims.

Moderated by Dr. Alhassan Yehia Almanakhra, undersecretary for international cooperation at the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah, the panel brought together distinguished speakers, including Osama Nugali, Saudi ambassador to Egypt; Fahad Abualnaser, Saudi ambassador to Türkiye; Dya-Eddine Said Bamakhrama, Djibouti ambassador to Saudi Arabia; and Essa Al-Duhailan, Saudi ambassador to Bangladesh.

Nugali commended the integration of modern technology in the visa issuance process, aligning with Saudi Vision 2030 goals, and eliminating the need for pilgrims to visit embassies or consulates.

Remember that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has now opened the door to utilize virtually all entering visas

for Umrah – an expansion from the previous system where only an Umrah visa is applicable for lesser hajj.

According to him “Within the requirements related to Hajj, every visa is issued for a specific purpose, whether it is for Hajj or Umrah, according to the regulations and instructions. This is well-known to diplomatic representations, especially in Egypt, where I serve as an ambassador. This indicates that integrated efforts among all parties contribute to eliminating what is known as backwardness, which is considered a challenge,” he said.

The discussion emphasized coordination mechanisms with Saudi authorities, covering consular, administrative, financial, health, and humanitarian services provided to pilgrims.

Collaborative efforts focused on enhancing communication between embassies and consulates to streamline procedures, handle emergencies, and address any complaints related to pilgrims.

Nugali stressed the importance of information exchange between embassies and the Saudi government to ensure a seamless pilgrimage experience, emphasizing the elimination of challenges through integrated efforts.

Abualnaser highlighted the successful coordination with Turkish authorities, offering training courses for pilgrims.

“In the Saudi Embassy in Türkiye, we are keen on providing Turkish pilgrims with all the necessary information, and regulations in the Kingdom. The success is evident as the Turkish Hajj mission achieved first place in the Excellence Award for Hajj missions presented by the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah. This serves as motivation for working entities to offer the best services to the guests of the Almighty.”

The session emphasized the ambassadors' crucial role in identifying and addressing gaps and challenges, contributing to the success of pilgrimage missions.

the event aims to address challenges, enhance readiness, and exchange

experiences to shape the future of Hajj and Umrah services.

### THE TAKEAWAYS

NAHCON Chairman explore the event, meets world hajj stakeholders

The Chairman of the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria, Malam Jalal Ahmad Arabi on the second day of the conference visited the Islamic Development Bank and sought for consolidation of the relationship established with IsDB. He expressed gratitude to the Vice President of Operations Dr Mansur Mukhtar, for the technical assistance that NAHCON received in 2019 that facilitated an understudy and establishment of the Hajj Savings Scheme and the Hajj Institute of Nigeria. A statement from NAHCON confirmed that the Chairman placed a request for the engagement of Nigeria's abundant skilled manpower such as Veterinary Doctors, and manual labourers to offer services during Hajj, especially under Hadaya. He equally requested IsDB to open a market for Nigeria to export sacrificial animals etc.

### PASSENGERS WITH NO BAG

During the event, Matarat Holding Company announced the launch of the “Passenger with no Bag” service for domestic and international passengers in all airports across Saudi Arabia. This service will come into force during the first quarter of 2024.

This service allows the passengers to complete their travel procedures from their home, and ship baggage to their destination ahead of their travel. This service will cover all airports in the Kingdom throughout the year and is available on domestic and international flights.

The company said that the aim of providing the service is to facilitate travel procedures for passengers at the Kingdom's airports, improve the travel experience to keep pace with the aspirations and goals of the Kingdom's Vision 2030, cut down waiting times at airports, and facilitate carrying light luggage during the passenger's travel

from his residence to the plane.

Emergence of education center for international Hajj and Umrah pilgrims

During the event, a memorandum of understanding was signed to finance a specialist centre to raise awareness of pilgrims of available services.

The signing, between the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah and the Guests of God Service Program with the General Authority of Awqaf, took place on the 2nd day of the Conference.

The planned centre will focus on raising the awareness of pilgrims, Umrah performers and visitors of the services provided by government agencies and private and nonprofit sectors.

More importantly, the local hajj administrators or service providers who attended the event have now realized that hajj and umrah have evolved into multi-faceted operations where innovations, diplomacy, and spiritual fulfilment are all rolled into one entity. The yearly hajj cycle is no longer tenable and any country that is still practicing such an archaic system will continue to experience service failure during hajj operations

Before my departure to Nigeria, virtually all the Saudi-approved pilgrims' hotels and accommodation has been booked with Some private Tour Operators having difficult challenges in reserving accommodation for the prospective pilgrims. By this time next year, no country will be talking of going to Saudi Arabia to secure accommodation because most accommodation contracts entered into this year by some countries spanned beyond the 2- or 3-year cycle.

It is time to put out a thinking cap and come out with the right formula to solve the quagmire behind the Hajj Saving Scheme. That is the only way we can make way to solve the perennial hajj service challenges.

Yes, I went, I witnessed and I have acquired more insight into the hajj admirative mechanism and reportage. May Almighty Make this year a success for Nigeria pilgrims Ameen.



With Members of association of Hajj and Umrah Operators (Abuja Branch) during the conference held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia



With the Chairman of world Hajj and Umrah care foundation, Mushin Tutsila





# Hajj Reporters Weekly

Kaduna, Nigeria – The Kaduna State Pilgrims Welfare Agency has urged intending pilgrims from the state to expedite the payment of their deposits to secure their place for this year's Hajj pilgrimage.

Speaking on a radio program, "Filin Fatawa," Executive Chairman Malam Salihu S Abubakar emphasized the importance of timely action, reminding all intending pilgrims that the registration deadline remains January 31st, as set by the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON).

Malam Abubakar expressed optimism about the registration process, highlighting a significant increase in the number of pilgrims due to the extension of time of the registration.

"We've observed a significant increase in the number of pilgrims registering for Hajj 2024," said Malam Abubakar. "However, to confirm their participation, timely registration and deposit are crucial. We urge all intending pilgrims not to delay and complete the process by January 31st to avoid missing this sacred opportunity."

Regarding the Hajj fare, Malam Abubakar assured pilgrims that NAHCON is finalizing the final cost. He expressed optimism that the fare will remain at the current ₦4.5 million or even decrease.

"We understand the financial considerations involved in Hajj," he said. "NAHCON is working diligently to determine the most affordable and reasonable fare for Nigerian pilgrims. We anticipate a final announcement soon, and in the



## Kaduna urged intending pilgrims to Finalize Hajj Registration January 31st

meantime, all intending pilgrims are required to deposit ₦4.5 million in the designated bank

account of the Kaduna State Pilgrims Welfare Agency."

## CSOs fault moves to relocate Katsina Airport, Says it is use for Hajj operations

"The president should also call Keyamo to order before it is too late."

Some Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Katsina State on Sunday expressed concern over what they claimed as an unfortunate, deliberate, malicious, and subversive attempt by the Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Mr. Festus Keyamo, to relocate the Umaru Musa Yar'adua International Airport, Katsina.

According to the concerned organizations, the airport is not dormant as it has been used for Hajj operations for the past 15 years where, thousands of intending pilgrims are being airlifted to Mecca to perform one of the pillars of Islam, hoping that, the lesser Hajj operation will soon begin.

The project contract according to the organizations was initially awarded to Avsatel Communication Limited on 7th December, 2022, and was meant to refurbish Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting Vehicles of the Airport.

According to the Chief Convener of a Conference held at the Press Centre of the Katsina State Council of the NUJ on Sunday Muhammad Danjuma, the contract was awarded, with a

down payment, during the last administration of President Muhammadu Buhari.

"Apart from international flights; the Airport serves daily domestic flights for hundreds of passengers.

"In addition, Umaru Musa Yar'adua International Airport is the nearest International Airport to Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport. (142 Kilometers). So, it can serve any contingency situation. Thus, we will not take any attempt to undermine it lightly.

"Since government is a continuous process, and coupled with the fact that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, has repeatedly said that his government would complete all good projects started by his predecessor, then what informed the decision of Keyamo. Is he on a collision course with the president?

"It seems the Minister has a different agenda. It is obvious he has a childish vendetta, a pathological mission to rubbish his predecessor at all costs.

"Hence these organizations, consider the harmful and retrogressive action of relocating this vital project from Katsina to another part of

the country by the Minister on a flimsy reason, as an attempt to shortchange the good people of Katsina state, who massively voted for Bola Ahmed Tinubu and APC, during the 2023 general elections.

"At least, if we don't deserve any reward for voting APC into power, we should not be punished by Festus Keyamo who did not contribute to mobilizing hundreds of thousands of Katsinawa to vote for APC and PBAT in Katsina State.

"We the people of Katsina state cherish Umaru Musa Yar'adua International Airport because it is very strategic in actualizing the development dreams of our forefathers.

"If Lagos State, Bayelsa, or Enugu need a world-class Airport then why not Katsina State?

Therefore, we want to use this opportunity to call on the Governor of Katsina State, H.E. Mallam Dikko Umar Radda, Ph.D., Katsina elders, and all patriotic sons and daughters of Katsina State to further convey our message to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, our outright rejection of the nepotistic policy of Minister of Aviation, Festus Keyamo, which is meant to retard the development of Katsina state.

"We therefore anticipate that PBAT as a listening leader, would do the needful, by reversing the subversive action of his minister, ordering the contractor to expedite action on the project or revoke the contract and re-award it to another firm that has the zeal and capacity to execute the development project.

"The president should also call Keyamo to order before it is too late," he stated.

The conference was jointly addressed by the Murayar Talaka Awareness Initiative, the Katsina Youth Enlightenment Crusade on Peace and Development as well as Citizens Participation Against Corruption Initiative.

Source: Channel TV





# Hajj Reporters Weekly

## High Cost of Hajj: Bangladeshis Opt for Umrah as 58% Quota lying vacant

• Against 127,198 quotas, only 53,115 registered for Hajj 2024

• 58% of quota still vacant

• Maximum cost of Tk1.5 lakh for performing Umrah

The cost of the Hajj package has recently escalated, prompting a growing inclination among Muslims in Bangladesh to opt for Umrah over participating in Hajj.

The president of Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (HAAB) said that the cost of Hajj is much higher than before. On the contrary, the cost of Umrah is very low. One can perform Umrah within a maximum of Tk1.5 lakh.

On January 8, Bangladesh formalized a bilateral Hajj agreement with the Saudi Arabian government in Jeddah.

As per the terms of the agreement, 127,198 Bangladeshis are granted the opportunity to undertake Hajj this year, mirroring the quota from the previous year.

However, despite extending the registration period to eight phases, the Hajj quota was not met.

Even with an additional two phases, only half of the Hajj quota was fulfilled, and the registration concluded last Thursday.

The Hajj is scheduled for June 16 this year, subject to moon sighting.

### Quota lying vacant

Motiu Islam, additional secretary to the Ministry of Religious Affairs, announced on Friday that more than 53,000 individuals have registered for Hajj this year.

"We will not extend the registration period this year. Despite a reduction of Tk1 lakh in the Hajj cost compared to last year, the response has not matched our expectations," said the additional secretary.

Since the commencement of registration on November 15, a total of 53,115 Hajj pilgrims have registered under both government and private management until Thursday.

With 74,083 quotas still vacant, the ministry has concluded Hajj registration, leaving 58% of the total quota unfilled.

Out of the 53,115 pilgrims, 3,802 have registered under government management, while 49,313 have registered under



private management.

This year, two Hajj packages have been established under government management, with the lowest package priced at Tk5,78,840 and the special package at Tk9,36,320. Meanwhile, the two packages under private management are priced at Tk5,89,800 and Tk8,28,818, respectively.

Compared to last year, the cost of the lowest package has seen a reduction of Tk1,04,160. However, despite this reduction, the response has been notably lower than in the previous year, echoing a trend observed in 2023 when 3,500 registrations remained vacant against the quota.

President of the Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (HAAB), S Shahadat Hossain, highlighted that while the cost of Hajj has decreased by Tk1 lakh compared to the previous year, it remains significantly higher than pre-Covid-19 levels.

Conversely, the cost of Umrah is notably lower, with individuals able to perform Umrah for a maximum of Tk1.5 lakh. This has led to a surge in interest among

many people opting for Umrah to save costs, he explained.

### Saudi Arabia's Hajj policy behind surging cost

In addition, Saudi Arabia has implemented significant alterations in its Hajj policy, leading to an escalation in costs.

The apparent shift in their approach suggests a future inclination towards directly managing Hajj pilgrims from Muslim countries, consolidating the entire operation under their purview.

Notably, they are now facilitating direct online registration for Hajj passengers from non-Muslim countries, while also transitioning the Umrah process to an online platform.

It is expected that the entire Hajj process may eventually be brought online.

The HAAB president said: "Even if there is a quota under the online process, there will be no need for a Hajj agency."

### Bangladeshi Hajj agencies incurring financial loss

In Bangladesh, there are

currently 1,250 Hajj agencies, and travel agents also play a crucial role in catering to pilgrims.

Despite a decline in the number of pilgrims, these agencies and travel agents are grappling with unchanged overhead costs, including management expenses, while facing a substantial drop in ticket sales for the three scheduled airlines.

Consequently, both Hajj and travel agencies are encountering financial losses, leading some to discontinue their Hajj-centric business operations.

### #hajj #umrah

Abdus Salam Aref, the Secretary-General of the Association of Travel Agents of Bangladesh (ATAB), said that the cost of Hajj has surged by 80% compared to the 2018-19 period. This increase is attributed, in part, to the rise in the dollar price. Notably, the expenses for six individuals to perform Umrah equal the cost incurred by one person undertaking Hajj, contributing to a growing interest in Umrah.

Presently, approximately 500,000 Muslims travel to Saudi Arabia annually to perform Umrah. Aref expressed concern over declining interest in Hajj, saying: "Travel agents are also suffering due to a decrease in interest in performing Hajj, with ticket sales dropping by less than half."

<https://hajjreportershausa.com/2024/01/21/high-cost-of-haj-bangladeshis-opt-for-umrah-as-58-quota-lying-vacant.html>

Motiu Islam pointed out that the rising house rent in Saudi Arabia, coupled with the addition of a 17% Value Added Tax (VAT), has added to the overall cost. The demolition of numerous houses has led to a significant increase in house rent.

Despite these challenges, Motiu Islam mentioned that they have managed to reduce costs by Tk1 lakh compared to the previous year.

However, further reductions are not deemed feasible. He emphasized that Hajj is a personal religious matter, saying: "Still, we are encouraged in many ways. But if they do not show interest, there is nothing to do. However, the number of Umrah pilgrims is increasing due to the lower cost."

Source: Dhakar tribune

***Saudi Arabia has implemented significant alterations in its Hajj policy, leading to an escalation in costs.***





### Visit to Riyadh Al Jannah now limited to once in year

A Muslim is allowed to visit the Riyadh Al Jannah at the Prophet's Mosque, the second holiest site in Islam, once a year, as stated by the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah in the kingdom. The ministry clarified that a permit for visiting this revered location is issued every 365 days.

According to the ministry, individuals interested in visiting Al Rawda Al Sharifa also known as Riyadh Al Jannah can book a permit after a year has passed since their last permit. Al Rawda Al Sharifa, situated within the Prophet's Mosque in Medina, holds the tomb of Prophet Mohammed (PBUH). Muslim worshippers desiring to pray and visit Al Rawda Al Sharifa must obtain an official permit prior to their arrival.

Following the completion of Umrah or the minor pilgrimage at the Grand Mosque, Islam's holiest site in Mecca, many pilgrims traditionally visit the Prophet's Mosque for prayers and to pay their respects at Al Rawda Al Sharifa.

Saudi Arabia anticipates approximately 10 million Muslims from abroad to perform Umrah during the current season, which began over six months ago. In April, Saudi authorities introduced a gilded brass barrier surrounding the Sacred Chamber at the Prophet's Mosque, replacing a wooden barrier.

This new barrier aims to preserve the visual identity and architectural pattern of the Mosque. Inspired by the anterior of the Prophet's Chamber, Al Rawda Al Sharifa, and cabins holding copies of the Holy Quran at the Old Mosque, the 87-meter-long barrier is made of pure brass. It surrounds the Sacred Chamber from three directions and is designed to withstand human density pressure while ensuring easy maintenance through internal props securing its immovability.

### Hajj Services: Breaking monopoly enhances competition and is good for pilgrims

At the conclusion of Hajj 2023, the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Hajj and Umrah announced that countries are now free to choose companies that would offer Services to its pilgrims during Hajj 2024 and allocation of spaces at Mashair (Mina, Arafat and Muzdalifa) would be based on first come first serve basis.

Hitherto, countries, particular from Africa non Arab countries are all grouped under a single company often known as Mutawif Company for Africa Non Arab, also known as Muassasa.

Many countries therefore, has been complaining of poor services by the company as it relates to feeding and spaces at Mina and Arafat. The Ministry often force the company to make refunds of services not provided or poorly provided, but it became clear that what pilgrims prefer is to get services for commensurate payments and not refunds after suffering for days.

Things came to a head last year when several countries protested poor services at Mina.

Apparently to solve the problem, the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah broke the monopoly that the Muassasa enjoys by allowing different companies to come onboard and offer services to countries at competitive rates.

By this decision, it means that the Nigerian contingent to Hajj 2024 under the leadership of the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON), has the chance to

consider all options before choosing any service provider.

Already, the Chairman of Ithraa group, Ahmad Sindy, the service provider for Nigerian pilgrims had to personally come to the country to meet Hajj stakeholders for a service agreement. That doesn't happen in the past. His arrival had the Hajj regulators and all stakeholders and indeed he himself the opportunity to discuss areas of concern and how best to offer adequate service to the pilgrims.

Also, worthy of note is the decision by a section of the Association of Hajj and Umrah Operators of Nigeria (AHUON), to opt for a different service provider for their pilgrims.

Feelers have it that they have already made a choice and have forwarded their decision to NAHCON awaiting their response before they put pen to paper.

A cautionary word here is that Nigerian operators should not go for a cheaper rate at the detriment of adequate service provision. Whatever they do, the needs of the pilgrims should be prominent.

They should always wear the shoes of the pilgrims and negotiate services as if they are negotiating for themselves personally. As our noble prophet (SAW) has said, "Do unto all men as you would wish to have done unto you; and reject for others what you would reject for yourself".

May Allah help is and allow us to experience Hajj Mabroor.

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***Do unto all men as you would wish to have done unto you; and reject for others what you would reject for yourself***

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