Press Release

PITB'S ONLINE SYSTEM REGISTERS 75000 NIGERIAN PILGRIMS FOR HAJJ

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Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) on the request of National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) has developed and launched 'Online Pilgrims Registration' platform for the automation of their operations for Hajj 2017. Currently, 95000 pilgrims from Nigeria will perform Hajj, among them 20000 through private tour operators and 75000 through government arrangements.

NAHCON approached Pakistan's Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony for developing an Information & Communication Technology (ICT) platform replica devised by Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) for Pakistan's Hajj operations, exercised during the recent Hajj management, which was overall widely lauded by majority of the pilgrims.

The Nigerian delegation visited Pakistan's Hajj Mission in Makkah twice, to study the Hajj operations and termed PITB's Hajj management system as a robust, pilgrim friendly ICT application. PITB's technological solution empowering the Hajj operations, has about 15 modules; which mainly include online registration of Hajj applications, selection of Hujjaj through transparent e-balloting, automated flight scheduling and building/rooms allocation, automated and centralized Hajj camps. A team from PITB visited Nigeria in March 2017 to understand their operations and gather the required data.

In May 2017, PITB launched Nigeria's Online Pilgrims Registration and trained five Master Trainers to further train officials in the 36 States of Nigeria and to extend it to 776 towns.
Underway is the development of Complaint Management System for Hajj Operations Monitoring and the Medical Module to handle pilgrims' medical records as well as manage operations of 11 clinics in KSA for Hajj 2017

For the coming year, automation of State Hajj Agencies, Bio-metric database of all the Pilgrims, Tracking of Pilgrims' training attendance, Vaccination inventory management, Tracking of Pilgrims' vaccination, Tracking of Pilgrims' Visas, Flight booking as per qualified Air carriers, Flight adjustments, Building Booking, Room Allocation, Finance Management System, and Luggage Module are in the pipeline.

PITB's electronic Hajj management system has vastly improved the services for intending pilgrims from Pakistan and curtailed the delays. PITB's input is extended at every step of Hajj operations. During the year 2017, ten (10) designated Banks with their 9,061 branches and respective more than 19,000 Bank officials were involved for online registration for 10 days through a centralized system of PITB connected with VPN without a single second down time and balloting in 45 minutes time on the completion of 10 days registration period, which earlier used to take three months. The recent Hajj operation witnessed 338,696 entries declaring around 89,040 successful. The balloting took place on group leader basis, resulting 22,997 groups successful. PITB initiated the automation of Hajj operations in 2013, which have been further improved over the years.