

BANGLADESH TO COLLABORATE WITH NAHCON ON HAJJ MATTERS

The visiting Bangladesh Hajj Mission counsellor in Saudi Arabia has pledged the readiness of the mission to collaborate with NAHCON in uplifting Hajj management. Muhammad Maqsudur Rahman, counsellor, Hajj affair in Saudi made the commitment today during his visit to the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) office in Makkah. According to him, both missions shared some similarities and experiences and therefore, need to learn and share information together with a view to make some improvements. He added that Hajj should not be limited to only spiritual, but should be explored to forge closer ties and relationships between friendly countries adding that his mission would be ready to provide NAHCON with required logistics as well as information, while soliciting

other areas of cooperation. In his response, the Chairman/CEO, Barrister Abdullahi Mukhtar Muhammad, MON, FCIA expressed appreciation to the visitors. He also reiterated that the courtesy visit would not only further strengthen the bilateral relations between the two countries as well as the two organizations, which according to him is in line with the official thinking of the Nigerian Government. Hajj is a unifying factor. It should not only serve the spiritual purpose, but also to explore the brotherly relations and learning from one another "I agreed that we need to learn from each other". Barr Mukhtar also indicated the readiness of NAHCON to offer assistance to the Bangladesh mission in the areas in which the commission has been recording major feats.

The Chairman/CEO Barr Abdullahi Mukhtar Muhammad welcoming the Bangladesh Counsellor to the NAHCON office.



NAHCON CONCLUDES AIRLIFT OCT 1

The in-bound flight for the 2017 Hajj Exercise is expected to be completed on Sunday Oct 1st. In a circular signed by the Commission's Deputy Director Administration, Dr. I.M Sodangi, directed all staff and officials to submit their name for manifest for the Oct 1 journey back to Nigeria. The homebound journey back home to Nigeria began on the 6th September with airlift of Gombe, Ogun and FCT pilgrims by the Saudi-based Flynas Airline. The initial schedule for the completion of the exercise was October 5, but following pressure from the NAHCON leadership and the spirited effort by the airlines to secure more slots and injection of additional aircraft to the operation by the Airlines, the exercise is being brought to a close four days ahead of schedule. Meanwhile, the Chairman of the commission, Barr Abdullahi Mukhtar Muhammad has expressed delight at the pace and outcome of the airlift exercise. Speaking at a meeting with members of staff of the Commission, Barr Mukhtar praised their unwavering commitment and contribution to the success of the exercise.

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LAGOS GETS THUMP-UP OVER CONDUCT

The Lagos state contingents to the 2017 Hajj has been applauded for its conduct at the Muna exercise by the leadership of the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON). Continued on page 3

NAHCON MAKKAH OFFICE

Muhd Surur Assabban street, close to Al-Dress filling station - UmmulJud Area.

THIS WEEK THROUGH THE LENS



Bauchi pilgrims arriving at Millenium Taiba Hotel Madina



Some Pilgrims alighting from the bus to their hotel



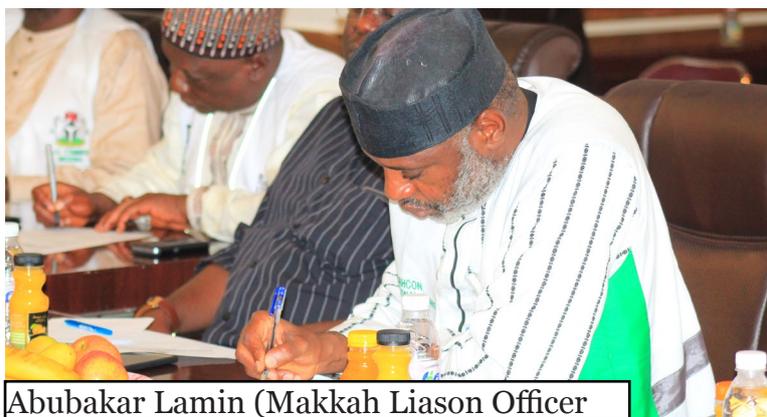
A member of the NMT treating a pilgrim at Madina



Some female adhoc workers during a meeting



Members of delegation of Bangladesh Hajj Mission on the Visit to NAHCON office

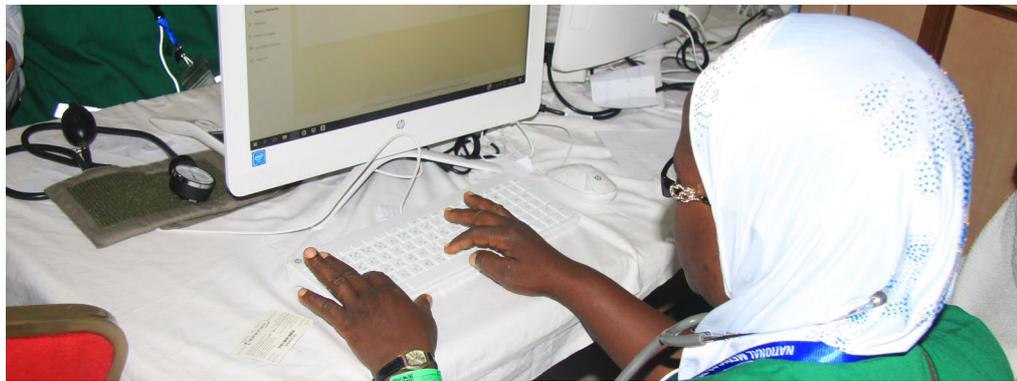


Abubakar Lamin (Makkah Liason Officer)



The Chairman/CEO Serving one of the participants at the dinner

The National Medical Team has been given a mandate over to expand its services to Nigerian tour operators and Gratis Visa holders otherwise known as 'Mujamala' in the 2018 Hajj Exercise. The Chairman/CEO, of the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) Barr Abdullahi Mukhtar Muhammad, MON, FCIA gave the directive after a close door interactive meeting with the leadership of the National Medical Team led by Dr. Ibrahim Kana. Barr Mukhtar said that the services of the team should be made available to all Nigerian pilgrims in the kingdom irrespective of their visa status. According to him, the policy direction of the team from 2018 Hajj would be to dispense Medical services to all Nigerian Pilgrims, notwithstanding whether they belong to private Tour operators "MUJAMALA" (Gratis Visa) holders. Barr Mukhtar however commended the team for their contribution towards the success



of 2017 Hajj and charged them to remain focused and committed for the remainder of the exercise, so as to discharge their duties effectively and efficiently. Earlier, the leader and head of the medical team, Dr. Ibrahim Kana had briefed the meeting on the achievements and challenges encountered by the team in the course of the exercise. He expressed appreciation to the commission for the support and cooperation accorded the team to discharge its assignment without fear or favour and also reiterated the need for more assistance especially in the area of procurement of additional EMR Machines.

LAGOS GETS

Continued from page 1

the Chairman/CEO, Barr Abdullahi Mukhtar Muhammad, hailed the conduct of the Lagos pilgrims as selfless and demonstration of the vision of new Nigeria. Speaking at an interview with journalists from Lagos state, Barr Mukhtar said the behavior of the officials of the state and their pilgrims was heart-warming considering the fact they were deprived of their original space at Muna. "I can't, but continue to praise the behavior of the officials and the pilgrims of Lagos state for their manner and conduct at Muna. After it became obvious that their space had been illegally occupied by another state. But rather than resort to self-help, the officials appealed and directed their pilgrims to relocate to another space provided by the commission, notwithstanding the fact that the new location lacked some of the necessary facilities". "It is a behavior worthy of emulation and it gives me hope that with the right leadership and good communication and interaction with the pilgrim, Nigerians can get to the Promised Land" It would be recalled that the Lagos pilgrims have a large part of their tent space being occupied by another state in Muna, but rather them struggling with the illegal occupants, the officials reported the matter to NAHCON and accepted to be relocated to another space which turned out not to possess some facilities.

"WHY WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE NIGERIAN PILGRIMS NEAR HARAM"

A Saudi based Nigerian Service Provider has outlined reasons why it may be difficult for Nigerian pilgrims to be quartered in the precinct of the Haram Mosque in Makkah. Alhaji Abdulkadir Bature DanMasi who is the Chairman of Al Rufaqa Group, made the revelation while speaking with journalists in Makkah



identified Finance, Restriction and Nigerian cultural orientation as the stumbling

blocks that would prevent Nigerian pilgrims being accommodated in those exclusive area.

"There are certain restrictions by the authority in the Haram area, which will affect the feeding arrangement

as vehicles are not allowed to pass through the area during prayer time and any other. This will prevent caterers from bringing food to the pilgrims as at when due" he said. He further stated that the cultural orientation of the pilgrims and the price for hotel accommodation in the Haram was too exorbitant for any ordinary pilgrim to pay bearing in mind that they go for as high as 15,000 Riyal depending on the season.



FACT FILE

about HAJJ 2017/1438

NUMBER OF TOTAL PILGRIMS
2,352,122

120,299
INTERNAL SAUDI PILGRIMS

99,009
INTERNAL NON SAUDI PILGRIMS

NUMBER OF EXTERNAL PILGRIMS
1,752,014

1,648,332 arrived by Air

14,827 arrived by Sea

88,855 arrived overland.

NUMBER OF VEHICLES USED TO
TRANSPORT PILGRIMS
31,569

Indonesia has the highest number of foreign pilgrims with 221,00 pilgrims while Nigeria is ranked 7th with 79,000

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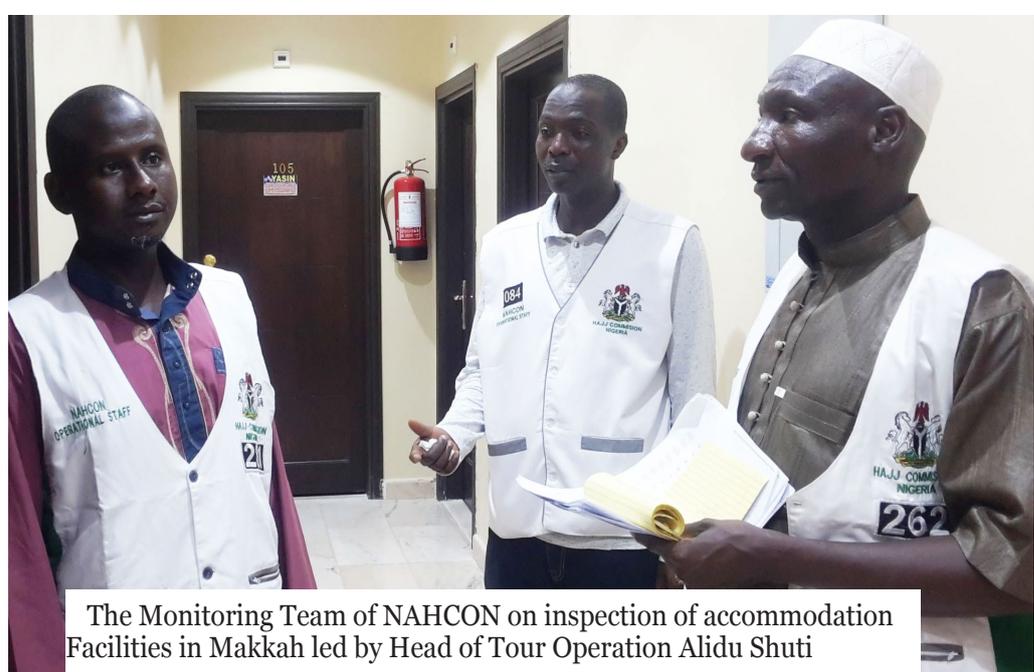
The Chairman/CEO of the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON), Barr Abdullahi Muhammad Mukhtar, MON, FCIA has conveyed his warmest congratulations to King Salman, the Crown Prince Muhammed bin Salman and the people of Saudi Arabia on the occasion of the Kingdom 87 National Day anniversary.

Barr. Abdullahi while speaking at the interactive meeting with Saudi-based adhoc staff of the Commission said the Kingdom has come a long way since the building and unification into a nation as shown in its role as the defender of the two Holy Mosques and a towering nation in World affairs. He particularly praised the Kingdom for her friendly disposition as good host of over 5million guests of Allah who visited it during Umrah and Hajj.

“The Kingdom has made tremendous expansion and improvement of its infrastructural facilities which has ease the performance of religious rites in the Kingdom and enabled many teaming pilgrims to achieve Hajj mabrur.”

He therefore expressed the confidence and hope that the brotherly relationship between Nigeria and Saudi Arabia on one hand and that between the Commission and Ministry of Hajj on the other would continue to be sustained and strengthened for the betterment of the people of both countries.

“While we look forward to strengthening the existing cordial relationship between us, we want to wish the Kingdom the best of goodwill especially in achieving its Vision 2030 goal”, the chairman said.



The Monitoring Team of NAHCON on inspection of accommodation Facilities in Makkah led by Head of Tour Operation Alidu Shuti