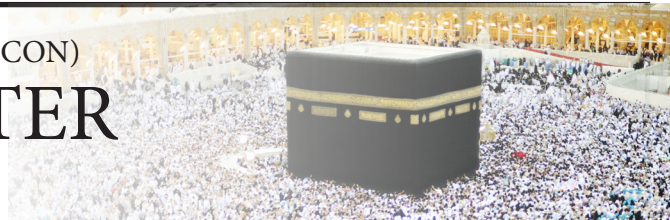




National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON)

# HAJJ NEWSLETTER



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## NAHCON SIGNS SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MADI- NAH ADILLA ESTABLISHMENT.



The National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) and the National Adilla Establishment in Madina have signed the 2018 Hajj Services agreement. NAHCON's Chairman/CEO, Barr. Abdullahi Mukhtar Muhammad, MON, FCIA, and the Vice Chairman/CEO of the Adillah Establishment Mr Essam bin AbdulAziz Demyati signed the agreement at the Adillah's Madinah Headquarters on Sunday, 7th January, 2018.

The Nigerian Delegation at the Meeting include Nigeria's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Ambassador Isah Mohammed Dodo the Chairman, House Committee on Nigeria-Saudi Arabia Parliamentary Friendship and Hajj, Hon Dr. Abdullahi Salame; NAHCON's Commissioners (PPMF), Alh Yusuf Adebayo Ibrahim, Ph.D and Operations, Alh. Abdullahi Modibbo Saleh; the Nigerian Consul-General, Ambassador Sani Yunusa; NAHCON Board Members; Representatives from the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (OSGF); State Pilgrims Welfare Boards the leadership of the Association of Hajj and Umrah Operators in Nigeria (AHUON).

Prior to the signing the two parties reviewed the 2017 Hajj in order to harmonize their efforts for better 2018

Hajj arrangements. The two leaders expressed satisfaction with the trends of partnership between them. Some of the issues discussed included the problem of some Tour Operators' passengers that failed to comply with their return flight schedule; Problems caused by Gratis Visas given by Saudi Foreign Missions in Nigeria, late arrival of some Pilgrims into Madina, among other issues.

The National Adillah Establishment is the Saudi Agency in charge of coordinating all pilgrims' activities in Madina, reception of pilgrims at Air and entry points, custody of their passports, liaising with transportation companies and landlords for the provision of transportation and accommodation service and handling any other issue involving pilgrims during their stay in Madina.

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Chairman/CEO Barrister Abdullahi Mukthar Muhammad and board members in a group photograph at the General Car Syndicate in Makkah



Chairman/CEO Barrister Abdullahi Mukthar Muhammad and board members after meeting in Muassasah



Chairman/CEO Barrister Abdullahi Mukthar Muhammad and Comm PPMF Yusuf Adebayo Ibrahim during a meeting with Muassasah



Pasting of Sticker after inspection of catering companies ahead of 2018 Hajj operations



Nigeria has been commended for an excellent outing during the 2017 Hajj exercise. The commendation was made by the Saudi Minister of Hajj and Umrah, during a Ministerial Meeting held between Nigeria and Saudi Arabia on Sunday, January, 5th in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

The meeting, which kick-started the process of Hajj 2018 preparations witnessed the Saudi Arabian Delegation led by His Excellency, the Minister of Hajj and Umrah, Dr Muhammad Saleh Bin Taher Benten and Nigeria's Delegation led by the Honourable Minister of State Foreign Affairs, Hon. Khadija Bukar Abba Ibrahim reviewing the 2017 Hajj operations and charting a new course for Hajj 2018.

The Nigerian delegation com-

prised of Executive Members of the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) led by the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Barr. Abdullahi Mukhtar Muhammad, MON and Nigeria's Foreign Missions in Saudi Arabia led by His Excellency, Ambassador Isa Muhammad Dodo, Ambassador to Saudi Arabia. The Saudi delegation comprised of representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Hajj, Interior and other agencies in charge of Hajj services.

The Nigerian Delegation had earlier commended the efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the successful hosting of over Two million pilgrims without any major incidence in 2017 and also condoled the Kingdom on recent attempted missile attacks on Saudi Arabia. It reiterated

Nigeria's stand against all forms of terrorism. It however pointed out that there were shortage of tents in Mina during the 2017 Hajj and also requested the improvement of services and facilities during the 2018 Hajj.

In his response, the Honourable Minister of Hajj and Umrah Dr Muhammad Bentel praised the Nigerian Hajj mission for the wonderful outing in 2017 which made Nigeria among the most organised Hajj Missions during the 2017 Hajj. He informed the delegation that a massive infrastructural improvements is being undertaken by the Kingdom in line with its Vision 2030 plan to cater for the increased number of pilgrims worldwide and promised to address all requests made by Nigeria for a better 2018 Hajj.



#### NAHCON COMMITTED TO PILGRIMS WELFARE- CEO

- Advises FG on 50% PAX traffic

The Chairman/CEO of the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) Barr Abdullahi Mukhtar Muhammad MON. FCIA has for the umpteenth time restated the commitment of the commission to pursue and promote the interest and welfare of Nigerian pilgrims in the Holy land.

Barr Abdullahi who spoke at the Senate Ad-hoc committee public hearing on Accommodation, logistics, feeding etc. onshore and offshore of 2017 Hajj said the Commission would never shy away from its responsibilities of ensuring that pilgrims from Nigeria has a better deal in the Holy land, even if it meant going through the bound to achieve it.

According to him, since his assumption of duties, he'd always ensured that pilgrims

have full-value for their money in terms of services rendered to them both in Nigeria and in Saudi Arabia.

He pointed out that the commission have consistently made sure that any service provider that defaulted in service provided or whose services fell short of standard are not only penalized but were often made to refund the money paid in accordance with subsisting contractual agreement.

While shedding light in the issue of contentious 50/50 percent passenger traffic split between Nigerian indigenous carriers and the Saudi-based airlines, the NAHCON helmsman opined that it was in the interest of the country that Nigerian pilgrims are airlifted by local carriers but advised that the matter should be han-

dled in a matured and diplomatic manner.

According to him "I will advise this committee to liaise with the federal government to engage the Saudi Arabia Government diplomatically at the highest level so as to persuade them to review the policy, so that our local airline can be made to airlift our pilgrims".

Speaking further, Barr Abdullahi gave an insight into the components of Hajj 2017, Hajj fare and how they were arrived at said that if not for the devaluation of the Naira to American dollar, the 2017 Hajj fare would have been the lowest in the recent time, stressing that the Commission was able to reduce the 2017 hajj by about \$300.

As the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) continues its preparations for the 2018 Hajj, it met with the Saudi Arabian United Agents on Tuesday for the signing of an agreement on how the Nigerian Pilgrims will be transported to and from the various Holy places within the Kingdom.

Nigeria has been described as one of the best Hajj Missions in the world in Hajj Management. This verdict was delivered by the Chairman of the United Agents Dr Faruq Bukhari. He said that Nigeria is adjudged to be the best partner in terms of organisation, hardwork and implementation of the Kingdom's policies to make Hajj management a global success. He added that Nigeria has evolved from bad to best position amongst other nations performing Hajj and its progress has been steady. He expressed great delight in treading the route of successful Hajj exercise with Nigeria.

While at the office of the United Agents in Jeddah, the Chairman of the Commission, Barr. Abdullahi Mukhtar Muhammad (MON, FCIA) appreciated the brotherly role played by the Office in the handling of Nigerian Pilgrims during the 2017 Hajj. He reaffirmed his request for the Office to employ some Nigerians into its system since the company requires a lot of manpower in the course of rendering its services. He added that the Nigerian Embassy will facilitate

the employment arrangements. The Chairman/CEO also appealed to the Chairman of United Agent Dr. Yahya Faruq Bukhari to hasten the repayment of refunds to both States and Tour Operators. To facilitate the cordial relation, Barrister Abdullahi asked if there are new regulations or guidelines so that the Commission would swiftly start enlightening the 2018 Intending Guests of Allah just like the case of newly introduced VAT, since NAHCON is maintaining its quota of Ninety five thousand (95,000) Pilgrims allocation for the 2018 Hajj.

In his remarks H.E. Nigerian Ambassador to Riyadh, Muhammad Isa Dodo (Rtd. Justice) ascertained his confidence in NAHCON Leadership in their relationship with the Saudi Hajj administrators and the smooth interactions between Nigeria and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He emphasized the need for the United Agents' continuous diligence in rendering better services to the Nigerian Pilgrims.

In his response, the United Agents' Chairman, Dr. Faruq Yahya Bukhari, promised to treat positively all requests put forward by the Nigerian delegation. United Agents coordinate and facilitate the reception and despatch of Pilgrims at all Saudi points of entry and exit.

At the meeting were representatives of the Presidency and the National Assembly.

## LAGOS OKAY'S MEDINA ACCOMMODATING ARRANGEMENT

The Lagos state government has expressed satisfaction with the NAHCON arrangement over medina accommodation.

The Executive Secretary of the Lagos state pilgrim welfare board, Mr Okoya Adeniyi stated this while making presentation at the public film hearing of the Senate Ad-hoc committee on accommodation, feeding, etc off-shore, on shore on 2017 HAJJ.

He stated that the arrangement has been the best thing to have happened to the country serving as a testimonial of its unity and oneness. According to him, the sharing of the same bedding and accommodation by the Nigeria pilgrims not only foster unity but also forge better Inter-ethnic relationship.

Speaking further Mr okoya denied the insinuation that NAHCON forced state Pilgrim's Welfare Boards into making choice of feeding and accommodation provider, stressing that states make their choice based on merit and individual preference.

## BOARD SAYS ONLY 20 PERCENT OF 2018 HAJJ PILGRIMS PAID FARES IN ADAMAWA

The Executive Secretary of Adamawa Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board, Alhaji Umar Bobboyi, on Wednesday, said only 20 percent of 2018 Hajj pilgrims paid for the 2,601 hajj seats allocated to the state for this year.

Mr. Bobboyi told journalists in Yola, the state capital, that the dateline for payment was March 2018.

He said it was necessary for the intending pilgrims to pay early to enable Saudi Arabian authorities to prepare for the exercise in good time.

He added that the board had met over the development and resolved to embark on public enlightenment in collaboration with the state's Muslim Council "to ginger the intending pilgrims to expedite payment."



Chairman of United Agents Office in a handshake with the Nigerian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia after signing of Service Agreement of the 2018 Hajj