



5000 HAJJ APPLICANTS ABOVE 80 YEARS TO PERFORM HAJJ WITH ONE HELPER WITHOUT BALLOT-Dr. Umar Saif

Lahore, January 22, 2018

The Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB)'s Hajj automation project for the fourth time successfully facilitating the Ministry of Religious Affairs & Inter Faith Harmony (MoRA & IH), Government of Pakistan in Hajj-2018 operations across Pakistan and KSA at Jeddah Airport, Makkah, Medina Airport, Medina and office of the Pilgrims Affairs (OPAP), Makkah & Medina, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, initiated in 2015. Dr. Umar Saif founding Vice Chancellor and the Chairman PITB said while appreciating the efforts of the respective officials here today.

Dr. Umar Saif was informed regarding the major new initiatives under new Hajj policy of the government, which would allow 5000 pilgrims above 80 years age to perform Hajj with one helper making a total of 10,000 without ballot while all those applicants who remained unsuccessful for three to four consecutive years would be given priority by allocating 10,000 seats to get another chance to win in the overall ballot.

The meeting was informed that 10612 branches of 13 banks across Pakistan have started receiving Hajj applications from January 15, 2018 till January 24, 2018 involving banks workforce of 22653 personals while balloting would be conducted on January 26, 2018.

Dr. Umar Saif appreciated the dedicated efforts of the PITB team for encouraging improvements in the Hajj operations and facilitating the Hujjaj by establishing online Registration and Balloting Systems, Automation of Haji Camps, Flight & Building Booking and Room Allocation System for Makkah, Room induction for Medina and Online Differential System.

PITB has also provided assistance to the Government of Nigeria for their National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) by replicating Systems & services in Hajj-2017, Government Hajj Scheme Pilgrims Online Registration System, Establishment of Hajj Helpline and Call Center in KSA, Pilgrims Complaints Lodging and Redressal System (complaints, inquiry & suggestions) and Electronic Medical Record System.