



His Excellency Chairman of the Hajj and Umrah Council, Republic of South Africa

Alsalam Alaykom Wa Rahmatu Allah Wa Barakatu

Further to the meeting which took place on the 18th March 2012 to discuss arrangements for the pilgrims of the Republic of South Africa for the Hajj (pilgrimage) season this year 1433H (2012), and the desire Your Excellency expressed during the meeting to increase the number of pilgrims of South Africa by 4500 (four thousand and five hundred) pilgrims from the official quota for South Africa, 2500 (two thousand and five hundred) pilgrims, bringing the total number in the range of 7000 (seven thousand) pilgrims.

We regret to inform you that due to the increasing numbers of the Muslim population in the countries from which the pilgrims come, and the Ministry receiving many similar requests that are beyond the capacity of the holy sites and the accommodation places of pilgrims. In addition to the limited space, especially in Mina, also the inability for the accommodation places of pilgrims in the holy sites to accommodate any increase in the number of pilgrims from the formal quotas for the Arab and Muslim countries. As well as the fact that the Government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques is currently working on the implementation of several important development projects in the Two Holy Mosques and the holy places, which aims to expand the capacity of these places in the future (God willing), the authorities in the Kingdom Saudi Arabia offer their apologies for the inability to fulfill your request. And stressing the need to adhere to and abide by the official quota of the Republic of South Africa for the pilgrimage season this year 1433H of 2,500 (two thousand and five hundred) pilgrims according to the agreement signed between the two sides regarding the arrangements and requirements of the South African pilgrims coming to perform the Hajj this year.

We appreciate your understanding and praying that God almighty grants His mercy on the pilgrims and forgives all their sins.

May God protect you,

Yours Sincerely,

Minister of Hajj
Dr. Bandar bin Mohammad Hajjar