



MEDIA RELEASE

19 July 2010

APPOINTMENTS OF TRAVEL AGENTS AND APPROVED PACKAGES FOR HAJ 1431H / 2010

The Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (Muis) has appointed 7 individual and 5 lead consortium travel agents as General Sales Agents (GSAs) for Haj 1431H / 2010. Muis has also approved 30 packages for the coming haj which are offered by these GSAs. Please see Annex A for the list of individual and consortium GSAs that have been appointed.

2 Out of these 30 packages, **11** are offered for the first time. These new packages are introduced by the travel agents to replace previous packages in which the hotels used were already demolished for redevelopment projects, forcing GSAs to switch to different hotels that are of better conditions and located nearer the Masjidil al Haram (the Grand Mosque at Mecca).

3 Included in the 30 packages are **one economy and one backpacker's (no frills) packages**, ranging from \$4,950 to \$5,050. First offered in 2006, these packages were introduced in response to past pilgrims' feedback on the need for more moderately priced packages. These are more suitable for younger pilgrims with a tight budget. All package prices **exclude airfare and the Emergency Medical Assistance insurance scheme for evacuation and repatriation services**.

4 Out of the 19 packages that were similarly offered last year, 14 have gone up in prices while three have shown a fall in prices. The prices for the two remaining packages have remained unchanged.

5 For packages that have gone up in prices, 11 show a reasonable increase of less than 10% while the prices of the remaining three increase more than 10%. Overall, the average price increase for all packages is 6.8%.

6 To **mitigate** this increase in price, more GSAs are offering packages where accommodations for pilgrims during the peak period of between 5 and 13 Zulhijjah are at Aziziyah or Shisha (near Mina city) which are further from the Grand Mosque at Mecca. This good initiative taken by the GSAs with the support of the Association of Muslim Travel Agents of Singapore (AMTAS) is necessary to maintain and offer more affordable packages for our pilgrims.

7 All packages offered were submitted through a public tender via the Government e-Business (GeBiz), which commenced on 16 April 2010 and closed on 7 May 2010.

8 The signing of the Haj Package Agreement 1431H / 2010 between Muis and the GSAs was held on 19 July 2010 at the Singapore Islamic Hub.

9 Muis would like to advise intending pilgrims to evaluate carefully before they decide on their haj package based on **need** and **affordability**, and to read and understand the content of the **Haj Purchase Contract**.

10 In the meantime, Muis will send Approval Letters to intending pilgrims whose registration number falls within the official places of 680 allocated to Singapore. These letters will be sent within the next two weeks for them to choose their preferred haj package.

11 Muis will notify all successful applicants (ie: those beyond the official quota of 680 places) when we receive official confirmation from the Saudi authorities on our request for additional places allotted to Singapore pilgrims for Haj 1431H / 2010.

12 For further details, the media can contact Mohamedzen Idris, Head, Haj Services Strategic Unit at 6359-1410 or via email at mohamedzen@muis.gov.sg. Alternatively, the media can also contact Jamari Mohtar, Head, Corporate Communications Strategic Unit at 6359-1434 or via email at jamari@muis.gov.sg

MAJLIS UGAMA ISLAM SINGAPURA

ANNEX A

INDIVIDUAL GSAs

1. AN-NUR TRAVEL PTE LTD
2. HAHNEMANN TRAVEL & TOURS PTE LTD
3. HALIJAH TRAVELS PTE LTD
4. NOOR MOHAMAD SERVICES & TRAVEL PTE LTD
5. SHAHIDAH TRAVEL & TOURS PTE LTD
6. SMILING TOURS & TRAVEL PTE LTD
7. TM FOUZY TRAVEL & TOURS PTE LTD

CONSORTIUM GSAs

1. AL FIRDAUS TRAVELS PTE LTD (LEAD AGENT)
ABU BAKAR SERVICES PTE LTD
2. AZZA TRAVEL & TOURS PTE LTD (LEAD AGENT)
MURAD TRAVELS PTE LTD
QU'INS TRAVEL & TOURS PTE LTD
3. HAGEL TRAVELS & TOURS PTE LTD (LEAD AGENT)
JALALUDIN TRAVEL & SERVICES PTE LTD
QADARIYAH TRAVEL & TOURS PTE LTD
4. NURHIKMAH TRAVEL & TOURS PTE LTD (LEAD AGENT)
SUNNY ISLAND TRAVEL & TOUR PTE LTD
BABUS SALAM HOLIDAYS PTE LTD
5. PRIMULA TRAVEL & TOURS PTE LTD (LEAD AGENT)
SHA TRAVEL & TOURS PTE LTD
HAMIDAH TRAVEL & TOURS PTE LTD
RUBY RASHID TRAVEL & TOURS PTE LTD
MZ TRAVEL & TOURS PTE LTD
TRAVELWAYS PTE LTD