



# SOUTH AFRICAN HAJJ & UMRAH COUNCIL

(Est: 1995)

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

14<sup>th</sup> August 2018

### PRESS RELEASE: INCREMENT IN HAJJ VISA BY ANOTHER 1000

The South African Hajj and Umrah Council (SAHUC) strive to serve the interest of the community guided by the policies of the Ministry of Hajj in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of August 2018, the South African Hajj and Umrah Council received official correspondence from the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, Pretoria, that a Royal Decree has been issued to South Africa to increase the number of Hajj Visas by another 1000.

The South African Hajj and Umrah Council is appreciative of the kind gesture by the Ministry of Hajj & Umrah as well as the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia to increase the Hajj VISA's for South Africa by another 1000 for 1439H. However as a result of short notice and the reasons listed below, it will not be possible to accept for Hajj 1439H.

1. The last Hajj flight departs South Africa on the 15th of August at 11h00 as per the General Authority of Civil Aviation in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
2. There are numerous processes which needs to be completed prior to the 04<sup>th</sup> of Dhul Hijjah. It will not be possible to complete these processes before the respective date.
3. The Prospective Hajji will be left with little or no preparatory time for his/her journey of Hajj.
4. Travel Operators are required to sign contracts with the respective Hujaaj and subsequently upload the contracts onto E-Hajj system prior to passport submission to obtain a Hajj VISA.
5. It will be difficult to obtain accommodation and flights within a short period of time at a reasonable cost.

We have requested the Royal Embassy to consider granting an increase in the quota at an earlier date next year to avoid the above complex experiences.

Yours Sincerely,

Was Salaamu Alaikum

Moaaz Casoo  
Secretary General