

It's A Political Ploy, Says Che Mat
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PUTRAJAYA, Dec 29 (Bernama) -- The alleged use of tithe funds as advance payment for legal fees incurred by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Jamil Khir Baharom and two others was a political ploy, said Federal Territory Islamic Religious Council (MAIWP) secretary Datuk Che Mat Che Ali.

Brushing aside the claim, Che Mat, who is also Federal Territory Islamic Religious Department director, said in fact the legal fees were paid through a government grant.

"It is not true that we had misappropriated tithe funds as we are here protect the sanctity of Islam and the credibility of MAIWP," he told reporters at his office here Thursday.

The Auditor-General's Report 2010 has claimed that RM63,650 was withdrawn from the MAIWP tithe fund to settle advance legal costs incurred by Jamil, Che Mat and Federal Territory syarie chief prosecutor Shamsuddin Hussain.

Yesterday, MAIWP chief executive officer Dr Muhammad Yamin Ismail said MAIWP has a special allocation from government grants to settle legal fees.

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