

**Perkasa backs investigation into Jamil Khir's alleged zakat abuse**  
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**By Shannon Teoh**

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 3 — Perkasa said today it would welcome an investigation into claims that Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom abused zakat funds.

PKR has repeatedly called for Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Jamil Khir to be investigated for using part of RM63,650 in zakat funds to settle his legal fees, especially after Johor police pursued a tithe collector for misappropriating RM19,510 in zakat money recently.

President Datuk Ibrahim Ali (picture) said Perkasa supported "anyone who wants to make a police report" as the Malay rights NGO does not condone any corruption or abuse of power.

"Make a police report. We will support and welcome it. But don't jump to conclusions. Let investigations be done first.

"We are not trojan horses who are tools of the government. But we are not like the opposition who jump to conclusions and ask people to resign," the Pasir Mas MP said.

The Auditor-General's report for 2010 revealed that the Islamic affairs minister and two senior Federal Territory Islamic Religious Council (MAIWP) officials withdrew zakat funds to settle their legal fees in 2010.

According to the report, Jamil Khir, MAIWP director Datuk Che Mat Che Ali and MAIWP chief prosecutor Shamsudin Hussain had withdrawn RM63,650 from the council's zakat fund to settle their legal costs incurred when Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim named the trio as respondents in his qazaf application.

The audit report also confirmed that the sum was repaid to the fund after the council obtained a RM70,000 grant in June 2010 as part of its general resources allocation from the government.

But PKR has said MAIWP only repaid the amount in December that year.

Jamil Khir denied on Saturday he and two religious officials had misappropriated alms money to pay their legal fees.

Ibrahim added today that Perkasa would leave it to the police and Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission to take action if required as "we are not defending anybody."

"We don't know who is right but let them investigate it," he said.

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