

**How trustworthy are zakat institutions, Asri asks on bypassing government**  
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Muslims who pay zakat (alms) should ask whether it is even right to hand over the money to institutions that they believe cannot be trusted, Perlis Mufti Datuk Dr Mohd Asri Zainul Abidin has said.

He said Muslims should also ask what Islam had to say about those who failed to properly carry out their responsibility in managing zakat.

He was responding to the statement by the Federal Territory Zakat Centre (PPZ-MAIWP) chairman that Malaysian Muslims were committing a sin if they paid zakat directly to the poor instead of handing the contribution to the government's zakat collection centres.

Asri wrote on his Facebook that he had received numerous emails and messages from the public asking him whether it was true that such an act was sinful.

"But before I can answer the question, at least two questions must be asked and answered first.

"First, what is the hukum (law and punishment) for those entrusted to manage zakat as well as public property, but do not manage it in a trustworthy and right manner?

"Secondly, is it right for an individual to entrust public property, orphans, zakat and others to quarters which they are confident are not/less trustworthy?" he wrote.

However, Asri said if Muslims were confident that the official zakat collection centres were trustworthy and transparent, they should pay their zakat through such channels, as the centres would have more knowledge about the needy.

Asri said refusing to pay zakat to the government without any "reasonable cause" could be sinful because Allah ordained that Muslims must adhere to their leaders in all things that are good.

PPZ-MAIWP chairman Datuk Che Mat Che Ali had said Muslims were committing a sin by paying zakat directly to the needy, as people could be selective and be more generous towards certain recipients such as "cute widows" or "eloquent speakers", rather than those truly in need.

In contrast, if the money were given to the zakat collection centres, the government would ensure that all those in need would receive equal help, he said. – November 24, 2015.

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/how-trustworthy-are-zakat-institutions-asri-asks-on-bypassing-government-in>