

POTENTIALS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ZAKAT FUND IN BANGKOK, THAILAND: A RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Ekarat Sitisan

Pusat Kajian Pengurusan Pembangunan Islam (ISDEV), Pusat Pengajian Sains
Kemasyarakatan, Universiti Sains Malaysia, 11800 Minden, Pulau Pinang;

E-mel: fahd_29@hotmail.com; **Tel:** 016-45520741; **Faks:** 04-653 2124;

Tahap Pengajian: Sarjana, Universiti Sains Malaysia.

Zakat plays an important role to attain mutual love, cooperation and solidarity among members of the Muslims society. Despite Muslims are minority in Bangkok, it is still important to implement the best practice of zakat management. However, there are many issues that need to be reviewed and resolved to achieve so. This is due to the fact that zakat payment is performed improperly according to Islamic teachings by the zakat payers. There are three reasons that are identified as the bottom line. First, they do not fully understand about zakat in terms of obligatory religious duties. Second, they have a limited access to the eligible zakat beneficiaries. Third, the availability of zakat fund as a central organization. The failure to overcome the limitations will affect the entire zakat payment system in Bangkok. Therefore, the aim of this paper is to propose a research pertaining to the potential for the establishment of zakat fund in Bangkok. In particular, the discussion focuses on two important topics. First, it describes the existing practice of zakat management in Bangkok and its potential for the zakat fund growth. Second, it highlights the significant issues that justify the importance of conducting this proposed research. The outcomes of this proposed research is hoped to improve the efficiency of zakat administration in Bangkok and provide a great insight to the policy makers, practitioners and Muslims society in Bangkok.