

Johari: Over RM5 billion in unclaimed money

REVAMP: Online system soon to check and speed up claim process

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THERE is about RM5.3 billion of unclaimed monies in the Accountant-General's Department, Dewan Rakyat was told.

The monies — derived from unclaimed salaries, bonuses and insurance policies, debtors or creditors, and cash in fixed deposit accounts (that went unclaimed for seven years) — were surrendered to the department, Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Johari Abdul Ghani said.

Initially, RM7.6 billion was recorded (surrendered) to the department since 2005, but RM2.3 billion was

reclaimed while the remaining RM5.3 billion remain unclaimed.

"The monies that have been listed in the gazette can be claimed at the Accountant-General Department's offices nationwide.

"As the gazetted information becomes public knowledge, external parties such as agents can see the names of people who have unclaimed monies.

"However, the appointment of agents by applicants is beyond the jurisdiction of the government.

"But the payments will only be made to the applicants or their accounts," he said when responding to a question from M. Kulasegaran (DAP-Ipoh Barat).

Johari clarified that the government had not appointed agents to collect unclaimed monies on behalf of applicants.

"Any payment is made directly to applicants."

Johari said an online system was being developed to improve the application for unclaimed monies, easier delivery and to carry out status checks.



Datuk Johari Abdul Ghani