

Darul Ifta Caribbean

دار الإفتاء كاريبيان

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Question

If a person cannot pay the Zakat by the last date of the calendar day due to some unforeseen issues, how should he/she should go about making that late payment?

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

Answer:

Ibn Umar narrated that: The Messenger of Allah said: "Whoever acquired wealth, then there is no Zakat on it until the year has passed (while it is in his possession)."

Imam Qudoori mentions: "Zakat is compulsory upon a free mature sane Muslim when he holds the full possession of the nisab for one full (islamic) year."

The nisab level of wealth required to qualify for the liability of Zakat, is calculated at the beginning of a year based on the Islamic calendar date and it concludes at the anniversary of that same date the following year. It is at this date when the Zakat is to be calculated using the current value and what one owns at the time.

Therefore, it is not a condition that any wealth must be in one's possession for the entire year but rather, whatever one has at the date of Zakat is what will be used to calculate the due amount.

In regards to your scenario, if a person cannot pay the Zakat by the last date of the calendar day due to some unforeseen issues, then he/she should go about making that late payment as soon as possible, without any further delay.

Only Allah knows best

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