

Kit Siang wants PAC chairman to resign, claims obstacle to NFC probe
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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 24 — Lim Kit Siang demanded Public Accounts Committee (PAC) chairman Datuk Seri Azmi Khalid resign, as he was getting in the way of a possible probe into the National Feedlot Corporation (NFCorp) scandal.

The DAP parliamentary leader said immediate investigations was needed into the RM250 million loan to NFCorp, so that PAC can table its findings and recommendations when Parliament convenes in March.

“There could be a conflict-of-interest as Azmi was a member of the Cabinet when government approval was given for the scandal-ridden NFC project before the March 2008 general election.

The Ipoh Timor MP criticised Azmi, an Umno lawmaker, who had reportedly said that the PAC should first wait for the police and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) to complete their investigations before launching their own probe.

Lim (picture) claimed that PAC’s reluctance to look into the cattle project scandal was only the “personal inclination” of Azmi and could not be the collective decision of the PAC.

“The last thing Azmi should do is to be responsible for the PAC playing “truant” from performing its parliamentary and national duty to conduct an immediate and urgent probe into the NFC scandal and to submit its report to Parliament when it reconvenes on March 12,” added Lim.

He said PAC’s role has gained new “relevance” following Malay rights group Perkasa’s recent remarks on the scandal-ridden project.

“Will Azmi convene an emergency PAC in the next few days to make this crucial decision?” asked Lim.

The publicly-funded company hit the headlines following last year’s Auditor-General’s Report, and has continued to hog the limelight after it was linked to Shahrizat’s family.

PKR has since made several revelations relating to the scandal, including NFCorp’s purchase of two luxury condominium units in Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur, and the alleged use of project funds to pay for Shahrizat and her family’s personal expenses.

The opposition party has also alleged that Shahrizat’s family used nearly RM600,000 from NFCorp’s funds to settle their credit card bills in 2009.

But the management of NFCorp has maintained that the credit card expenses were solely for business purposes.

It has also denied allegations that funds from the RM250 million government loan were

channelled into its accounts before the loan agreement was signed.

Shahrizat applied for three weeks' leave from her duties two weeks ago after new allegations of bribery surfaced.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin announced last week that the government would appoint an auditor to scrutinise NFCorp's books in light of PKR's accusations.

NFCorp chairman Datuk Seri Mohamad Salleh Ismail has said that his company is not the entity criticised in the Auditor-General's Report for being a mess.

He said the audit had confused NFCorp, a private entity, with the National Feedlot Centre (NFC), which is owned by the Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry Ministry.

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