

**Parliament approves panel on Lynas**  
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**By MAZWIN NIK ANIS**

KUALA LUMPUR: The Dewan Rakyat has approved the motion for a Parliamentary Select Committee (PSC) to look into controversies surrounding the Lynas rare earth plant in Gebeng, Pahang to be formed.

The motion was passed after "hot and heavy debate" Tuesday, with the Opposition demanding the project be halted until the committee submitted its report.

The motion, which was tabled by Minister Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz, saw MPs from both sides engaged in heated debate, either supporting or criticising the setting up of the PSC.

Nazri said the Cabinet had agreed to set up the committee to evaluate scientific and technical facts to be presented by experts, as well as to look into its health and safety standards.

He said the committee would be given three months to complete its report and findings to be tabled in Parliament.

"The fact that we proposed setting up the PSC shows that the Government also wants to hear explanation from experts. That is why the committee needs to be set up so that interested parties, including the Opposition, can air their views and concerns to the committee," he said when tabling the motion.

The Cabinet last Friday had agreed to set up the PSC to look into controversies surrounding the plant.

The nine-member committee, comprising four representatives from Barisan Nasional, three from the Opposition and one independent member, will be headed by Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Khaled Nordin.

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