

PAC says NFCorp late on loan repayment
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KUALA LUMPUR, March 19 — The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) said today the National Feedlot Corporation (NFCorp) has yet to repay the RM250 million federal loan despite the repayment date being due two months ago.

PAC chairman Datuk Seri Azmi Khalid told reporters that the committee was informed of this by Finance Ministry officials who were quizzed on the the cattle-breeding project.

“The first instalment (repayment) was supposed to be in January this year,” Azmi said.

“No repayment as far as we know. There was a schedule, but what we learnt is that not yet concluded,” he said, stressing that the PAC was not allowed to discuss matters any further with the public.

According to Azmi (picture), the Finance Ministry through a special committee had given a directive to put the project on hold in 2009 pending a complete “restudy”.

“What we hear is it was on hold. How far we don’t know.

“Total restudy directive given in 2009, but in between there were commitments made, once orders were made cannot withdraw,” he said.

“You buy cattle, you forward order. These are living things, certain things you have to pay,” said the Padang Besar MP.

He insisted that NFCorp adhered to the directives of the special committee. He also revealed that both the Finance Ministry and Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry have yet to present relevant documents pertaining to the case.

“They said all documents are with police... and also some are with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), we requested certified copies ... We will give them back when finished, not sighted yet,” said Azmi.

The Umno MP said the PAC was mindful of the fact that there was also an on-going court case involving NFCorp boss Datuk Seri Mohamad Salleh Ismail, and that certain parts of the parliamentary panel probe may be considered subjudice.

“This is not the first time that we have sat to hear cases that are in court. Matters relating to the court case will not be brought up.”

Azmi reiterated that the panel could not make any “conclusions” as of yet, and that it will be meeting NFCorp officials tomorrow morning.

NFCorp, which was tasked with running the national cattle-farming scheme, is headed by

Senator Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil's husband Mohamad Salleh and their three children.

Salleh was charged last Monday with criminal breach of trust and violating the Companies Act after he allegedly used the cattle-rearing firm's federal loan for personal expenses.

The NFC project in Gemas, Negri Sembilan, was awarded to the company in 2006 when Shahrizat was in Cabinet.

NFCorp hit the national headlines after it made it into the Auditor-General's Report last year for missing production targets.

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