

NFCorp inquiry to continue

NO STOPPING: PAC wants to find out how RM250m loan was spent and won't discuss chairman's case

THE Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has decided to continue its inquiry into the National Feedlot Corporation (NFCorp) despite the ongoing court trial.

Chairman Datuk Seri Azmi Khalid, however, said it would adhere to Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia's advice that matters specific to criminal charges faced by NFCorp executive chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mohamed Salleh Ismail must not be discussed as they could be deemed sub judice.

"The speaker has made it very clear in the house that things relating to the ongoing court case should not be mentioned.

"But I was told that other matters not involving the court can be touched on," he said after meeting PAC members in Parliament yesterday.

Azmi said the inquiry would focus on how the RM250 million federal loan was spent by the company.

"We will touch on how public funds were used, what kind of analysis was done before the money was spent and other things.

"We have asked related agencies to submit documents relating to the case. Loan agreements will not change even if they are brought to us, so there will be no sub judice here."

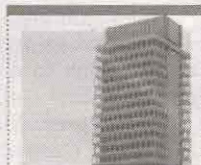
The PAC, he said, had ordered the Finance and Agriculture and Agro-based Industry ministries to submit three documents — the loan agreement, implementation agreement and land agreement — by this week.

The NFCorp controversy unfolded when the 2010 Auditor-General's Report said the RM250 million project had not met targets set by the government.

The PAC's scheduled hearing on Tuesday had to be postponed when company directors failed to attend a meeting on the advice of their lawyers.

Last week, Salleh pleaded not guilty to four counts of criminal breach of trust and misappropriation of almost RM50 million at the Sessions Court.

Salleh is Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil's husband and their children are on the board of directors of NFCorp.



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