

NFCorp hearing to go on

Reps to testify although executive chairman has been charged

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PETALING JAYA: The scheduled hearing on the National Feedlot Corporation (NFCorp) will still go on, said the Parliament's Public Accounts Committee chairman.

Datuk Seri Azmi Khalid (BN-Padang Besar) said the NFCorp representatives, as well as officials from the Agriculture and Agro-based Industry, and Finance Ministries would still be called up to testify before the committee

next Monday.

This is despite NFCorp executive chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mohamad Salleh Ismail being charged in court on Monday.

Azmi said they have yet to finalise specific matters to be discussed, with a mind not to break the *sub judice* rule of the court proceedings.

The representatives are expected to explain the RM250mil in soft loan given by the Government to NFCorp meant for a national cattle farming project.

In the previous PAC hearing on

Nov 23, Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Ministry officers, including the secretary-general, confirmed that the NFC was able to withdraw its soft loan even before a contract with the Government was signed.

Salleh was charged on Monday with two counts of committing breach of trust and two counts of violating the Companies Act 1965 involving RM49.7mil.

PAC deputy chairman Dr Tan Seng Giaw (DAP-Kepong) also said the court charge would not affect the hearing.

"There were already past precedents such as the hearings on the Port Klang Free Zone controversy," he said.

Separately, the Dewan Rakyat rejected an emergency motion tabled by Ampang MP Zuraidah Kamaruddin to discuss the NFCorp issue.

In rejecting the motion, Speaker Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia said:

"At first I allowed it to be read but now the matter has been brought to court. So I cannot do as I please. It must follow the standing orders and my decision is final."