

SOP scrutiny

> PAC to examine govt procedures relating to NFCorp issue

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) will probe issues related to the controversial National Feedlot Corporation (NFCorp) next week.

PAC chairman Datuk Seri Azmi Khalid said representatives from several government agencies will be called before the committee at its meeting on Tuesday.

They include those from the Finance Ministry as well as the Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Ministry.

Azmi, however, stressed that the PAC probe will only be limited to the standard operating procedures (SOP) used by the agencies, including how the government tender was awarded.

"Our focus will be on the government's SOP. It will not touch on the ongoing court

case involving NFCorp," he said after chairing the committee's meeting yesterday.

"So, issues such as how NFCorp disburses money and claims about the purchase of condominiums will not be discussed.

"We will have nothing to do with how the company spent the loan...we cannot touch on any court case, so how NFCorp disbursed its funds is not our business. Only government procedure."

Azmi explained that the PAC would not be probing the way the company spent its funds as it would go against an earlier ruling by Parliament Speaker Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia that matters before the court should not be discussed in the Dewan or elsewhere.

"Parliament has decided that it is subjective and it is not fair (to the company)," said Azmi, adding that the PAC would concentrate on government SOP "before the money went there (NFCorp)".

The NFCorp issue had come under scrutiny following the Auditor-General's 2010 Report, which highlighted its failure to meet the annual beef production target set by the government.

The company, managed by former women, family and community development minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil's husband Datuk Dr Mohamad Salleh Ismail, has been accused of misusing the RM250 million government soft loan for unrelated expenses.

Mohamad Salleh, 64 has since been charged with two counts of criminal breach of trust (CBT), and two counts of violating the Companies Act involving a total RM49.7 million.

He was charged in March with spending RM9,758,140 belonging to NFCorp to purchase the two condominiums for the National Meat and Livestock Corporation (NMLC) in 2009. He was also charged with

transferring RM40 million of NFCorp funds to NMLC the same year.

On Monday, two units at the One Menerung luxury condominiums in Bangsar and two plots of land in Bandar Putrajaya linked to the NFCorp scandal were seized under the Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorism Financing Act (Amla).

The seizures were made following a probe by Bukit Aman's anti-money laundering unit into the NFCorp scandal.

Meanwhile, Azmi said the PAC will call officials from the Finance Ministry on June 27 to help in its probe into the iMalaysia Development Bhd's (iMADB) RM3.5 billion Petrosaudi investment.

"On other cases such as the KLIA2 and the out-of-court settlement of former Malaysia Airlines boss Tan Sri Tajudin Ramli, we will ask the auditor-general to look into them first before beginning our investigations," he added.