

NFC, bank ordered to file papers by Sept 20

Judge will strike out claim if both parties don't comply, says lawyer

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KUALA LUMPUR: National Feedlot Corporation and Public Bank Bhd have been asked to file their detailed court papers by Sept 20 for the suit by the cattle-rearing company against the bank for alleged security breach.

NFCorp, its related companies and its chairman had, on May 22, filed a summons against the bank at the High Court here stating that its business reputation and credibility had suffered irreparable loss and damage as a result of the security breach of the Banking and Financial Institutions Act 1989 (Bafia) by the bank.

High Court judge Justice John Louis O'Hara ordered the parties yesterday to file various documents, including agreed facts, issues to be tried and witness statements for the hearing proper.

The judge made the order after meeting the parties in chambers.

Speaking to reporters later, NFCorp solicitor Wan Shahrizal Wan Ladem said the judge had directed the parties to file the documents by Sept 20 or risk the claim being struck out.

"The judge told us that he will

not hesitate to strike out the claim if the parties fail to comply with the court directive," he added.

The breach by the bank, NFCorp had stressed, had allowed PKR strategic director Rafizi Ramli to dramatise and "sow the seeds of distortion and misrepresentation" to defame and damage the reputation and credibility of the corporation, its related companies and its chairman with the Government and the public as well as with the business and financial communities.

In its lawsuit, NFCorp stated that its private and confidential banking information, its related companies and its chairman had been exposed to the world at large, and the lives of the directors and family of the plaintiffs had also been exposed to danger.

It added that the bank was obliged to protect the information in law, in contract and in its fiduciary duty from being reproduced, given, divulged, revealed, published or otherwise disclosed to any person, or to make a record for any person, of any information or document whatsoever relating to the accounts of the plaintiffs published to any third party.