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What happened to Felda was daylight robbery



National Centre for Governance, Integrity and Anti-Corruption (GIACC) director-general Tan Sri Abu Kassim Mohamed said this in reference to the list of ‘bad decisions’ highlighted in the White Paper. NSTP/SHARUL HAFIZ ZAM

By **Tasnim Lokman** - April 11, 2019 @ 3:19pm

KUALA LUMPUR: The Federal Land Development Authority (Felda) was “robbed in broad daylight”.

National Centre for Governance, Integrity and Anti-Corruption (GIACC) director-general Tan Sri Abu Kassim Mohamed said this in reference to the list of “bad decisions” highlighted in the White Paper tabled by Economic Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali in the Dewan Rakyat.

Speaking during a question and answer session after his lecture on the “National Anti-Corruption Plan: The Way Forward in Malaysia” at the National Institute of Public Administration, Abu Kassim said everyone needed to learn from this incident and ensure it was not repeated.

He later told reporters the Felda controversy was “sad to watch” as it was one of the institutions meant to help those in need.

Abu Kassim, who is a former Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission chief commissioner, said Felda's money was used for other reasons until such a point that it suffered immense losses.

“The White Paper showed us the financial situation of Felda and its investment processes, how they did it. It was very sad to see them misuse the money until the institution suffered immense losses... this is our main concern,” he said.

Asked what was next for Felda and the government, Abu Kassim said the government would do “whatever necessary” to ensure the institution's future.

He said if there was any breach of law, then the government would let the law take its course.

Abu Kassim added that he already knew some of the information stated in the White Paper before it had been tabled, including from investigations conducted while he was still MACC chief commissioner.

The White Paper, entitled Towards the Sustainability of Felda, noted that the agency had RM14.4 billion in liabilities.

Azmin had said the government would be injecting RM6.23 billion into Felda to rescue the ailing agency.

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