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Re-paying foreign oil firms delayed until mid-2016

THE government aims to fully re-pay its \$3.1 billion debt to foreign oil and gas companies by mid-2016, around a year later than previously indicated, the Oil Ministry announced yesterday.

"All current operational payments have been made on time and are on track to re-pay any remaining arrears before its debts within six months.

mid-2016," the Ministry said in a statement to Reuters late on Monday.

After making payments of nearly \$5 billion in November and December, arrears stand at \$3.1 billion, the statement said.

In November, the government said it would re-pay all