

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2012

Shahrizat says ready to face accusations over NFC

BERUAS: Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil, who is scheduled to resume duties as Women, Family and Community Development Minister on Wednesday after three weeks' leave, said she is ready and unafraid to face accusations over the National Feedlot Corporation (NFC) issue. The Wanita Umno chief said the allegations hurled at her have made her more spirited to face all kinds of tests. "It's okay. We are politicians. We become more spirited when we are subjected to tests," she told reporters at an event to consolidate the Wanita Barisan Nasional (BN) election machinery here Saturday. The event was launched by Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir. Shahrizat was asked to comment on a statement by PKR director of strategy Rafizi Ramli in the PKR official portal, Keadilan Daily, recently that the party would greet Shahrizat's return from leave with more revelations of alleged malpractices involving her family. Shahrizat was faced with the issue of the NFC, helmed by her husband Datuk Seri Dr Mohamad Salleh I smail, after the **2010 report of the Auditor-General** released last October stated that the NFC had failed to achieve its target. The issue heated up after the Opposition alleged irregularities over the RM250mil government allocation to NFC. The National Feedlot Centre is a project in Gemas, Negri Sembilan, aimed at boosting the production of beef to reduce dependence on import of the meat. On Wanita Umno's preparation to face the next general election, Shahrizat said she would ensure that the election machinery was always ready.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2012

Family has two more S'pore suites, claims PKR

PETALING JAYA: Following allegations that the family of Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil owns condominium units in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, the PKR has further claimed the family has two more luxury suites in the republic. PKR strategic director Rafizi Ramli said the two other units in Singapore's Marina Bay, with a price tag of \$S14.29mil (or RM34.6mil), were bought on May 27, 2010. He alleged the Marina Bay suites were bought under the names of National Feedlot Corporation chairman Datuk Dr Mohamed Salleh I smail and NFC chief executive officer Wan Shahrinur I zran Salleh. Dr Salleh is the husband of the Women, Family and Community Development Minister while Wan Shahrinur is their son. Rafizi claimed the loans for the condominium units were obtained from Maybank and United Overseas Bank. He alleged the personal loans were obtained through leverage from a RM180mil fixed deposit kept in a local bank. Reacting to the latest PKR allegations, the NFC said they would respond "in due time". A spokesman said they need time to "comb through" the allegations before responding. The NFC issue was first highlighted in the **2010 Auditor-General's report**. Since then, the Opposition had claimed that the loan disbursed by the Government had been used for non-agriculture related investments. Drawn in by the controversy, Shahrizat took a three-week break recently to facilitate MACC investigations into the NFC. She reported back to work yesterday.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2012

Rumours rife about Shahrizat's resignation - By LEE YEN MUN newsdesk@thestar.com.my

PUTRAJAYA: Talk that Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil may quit her Cabinet post led to pressmen trailing her everywhere. Scores of reporters waited outside the Prime Minister's residence from 8am yesterday after rumours that the Women, Family and Community Development Minister would resign. However, it was revealed that Shahrizat, who was seen entering Seri Perdana in a chauffeured Proton Perdana at 8.30am, was there to attend a meeting on the Government Transformation Programme and Economic Transformation Programme. Several other Cabinet ministers were also believed to have attended the meeting organised by Pemandu. "As far as we are concerned, there is no talk of a resignation," Shahrizat's press secretary Eikmar Rizal Mohd Ripin told *The Star*. The Wanita Umno chief has been embroiled in a controversy over National Feedlot Corporation managed by her family members, including her husband and children. On Wednesday, she was questioned by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) over her role in alleged financial improprieties. Shahrizat said she came to be interviewed as the wife of the corporation's executive chairman, Datuk Dr Mohd Salleh Ismail. The controversy arose after the **2010 Auditor-General's** report said NFC, a cattle-breeding project, had not met its target. Separately, Gerakan deputy party president Datuk Chang Ko Youn hoped Shahrizat would have the magnanimity to vacate her position as minister in the interest of Barisan Nasional. "She can return to the Cabinet after this episode is over and her name is cleared," he said in a statement yesterday. Chang said that while this was a sacrifice on her part, it would be a wise move to save Barisan from "unnecessary attack".

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2012

A-G: Training necessary to enhance integrity

KUALA LUMPUR: The Government has proposed that procurement officers undergo training to enhance the sense of integrity and professionalism. **Auditor-general Tan Sri Ambrin Buang** said: "It is important to improve the professionalism of officials who are involved in the day-to-day management of government procurement of goods and services." He added that the training would start this year. Ambrin said that the biggest challenge in addressing losses in procurement was managing the human factor. "People are trusted to do certain jobs and to do those jobs well. They should have the conscience that they are managing public money," he said. Malaysian Institute of Corporate Governance president Tan Sri Megat Najmuddin Khas said that expenditure on procurement was substantial, and that the country cannot continue to waste and leak, as the country's financial resources were not inexhaustible. "Now the country is so dependent on Petroliam Nasional Bhd (but) business is not going to be there forever because oil and gas are depleting assets. Therefore, the Government needs to curb all abuses," he said. Another important measure is the integrity pact between contractors and suppliers who have won government contracts. This pact is a form of trust that either party would not commit any act of corruption.

At the forum yesterday, Commerce Dot Com Sdn Bhd (CDCSB), the builder and implementer of the Government's electronic procurement system signed the Corporate Integrity Pledge. CDCSB chairman Syed Azmin Syed Nor said in a statement: "CDCSB as a corporate entity realises that to

survive in the market in the long run, we must have integrity; be it in ourselves, our dealings, mind-sets, as well as our products." The Government had granted CDCSB the exclusive right to implement and operate the Government's electronic procurement system, *ePerolehan*. CDCSB is the 66th company to sign the pact.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2012

Ambrin Buang reappointed Auditor-General

KUALA LUMPUR: **Tan Sri Ambrin Buang** has been reappointed auditor-general for a year with effect from Feb 23 this year, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Sidek Hassan said Thursday. He said in a statement that the Yang di-Pertuan Agong has consented to the reappointment. Ambrin was appointed auditor-general for a two-year period from Feb 23, 2006, to Feb 22, 2008. He was reappointed to the post for two years from Feb 23, 2008, to Feb 22, 2010, and again for a two-year period, up to Feb 22, this year.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2012

Wait for outcome of NFC probe, says DPM

KUANTAN: Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin has urged all parties to wait for the investigations to be completed on the National Feedlot Corporation (NFC) issue. Muhyiddin said the Attorney General's office would announce the result of the investigation carried out on the NFC. "I do not want to make any specific comments on the NFC issue because the ongoing investigations have not been completed. "It is best we be patient," he told reporters after a closed door meeting with Pahang Umno liaison members. The Deputy Prime Minister was commenting on Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's advise to Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil to "not love your post so much that you refuse completely to part with it". "That is the former Prime Minister's opinion, he must have his reasons for making such a statement and we need to respect his views," said Muhyiddin. Muhyiddin said he would not want to make any assumptions, adding that Shahrizat would be able to make her own decision once the investigation was completed. "We cannot jump the gun and make any assumption because we do not have privileged information, the matter is still under investigation," he said. Dr Mahathir had said Shahrizat, the Wanita Umno Chief, must take the best form of action for the benefit of the party. The NFC controversy arose after the **2010 report of the Auditor-General** released last October stated that the company had failed to achieve its target. The issue heated up after the Opposition alleged irregularities over the RM250 million government loan to NFC, headed by Shahrizat's husband Datuk Seri Dr Mohamed Salleh Ismail. The National Feedlot Centre in Gemas, Negri Sembilan, was set up to boost the production of beef to reduce dependence on imported beef.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 24, 2012

Panel wants NFC probe to be concluded quickly

KUALA LUMPUR: Investigation into the National Feedlot Centre (NFC) scandal should be concluded immediately in order to give justice to all quarters, said the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission's (MACC) Operation Evaluation Panel (OEP). Its chairman Tan Sri Dr Hadenan Abdul Jalil said the investigation must be concluded as soon as possible to prevent any further speculation. "The MACC has initially completed and submitted its investigation papers but they were returned by the Attorney-General's Chambers for further investigation." He said this after chairing the panel's special meeting at the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Academy here yesterday. Dr Hadenan added that the panel had also been briefed about the investigation process in its previous meeting. "The case is being investigated by both the police and the MACC," he said. The NFC came under fire following the **Auditor-General's 2010 Report** that the cattle breeding project had failed to meet its target.

On the meeting, Dr Hadenan said the panel had discussed, among others, three high-profile cases, including one that involved the Kelantan Menteri Besar's son-in-law, Abdul Ariffahmi Abd Rahman. The case against Abdul Ariffahmi, who is also the former chief executive officer of Kelantan Menteri Besar Corporation, had been closed due to the prosecution's lack of evidence, he said. Abdul Ariffahmi was investigated by the MACC for alleged misappropriation and abuse of power. Dr Hadenan said the investigation into the Selangor sand-mining scandal involving Seri Muda assemblyman Shuhaimi Shafie and Batu Caves assemblyman Amirudin Shari was ongoing. "The panel has agreed that the case should be reviewed by the MACC's legal division," he explained.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2012

Police want NFC directors to be charged for CBT - By LOURDES CHARLES

KUALA LUMPUR: Police have recommended to the Attorney General that directors of the scandal-plagued National Feedlot Corp (NFC) be charged for criminal breach of trust, said CCID Director Datuk Syed Ismail Syed Azizan on Saturday. "This is our recommendation based on our findings during the investigations which are still ongoing. There are other areas that we are still investigating and I can't reveal much for now," he said. The directors of NFC are Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil's husband Datuk Dr Mohamed Salleh Ismail, who is the chairman, and their three children. Wan Shahinur Izmir, 31, is NFC's executive director, Wan Shahinur Izran, 27, is its CEO while Wan Izzana Fatimah, 25, is a director. The NFC came under fire after the Auditor-General's 2010 Report in October last year revealed that the RM250mil cattle breeding project had failed to meet its target. It then emerged that funds had been used to buy two luxury condominiums in Bangsar. NFC is being investigated by both the police and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC). The MACC is looking into possible misappropriation of funds, abuse of power and the possibility that corrupt practices had taken place in the awarding of loans. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has announced that the assets of the NFC had been frozen pending investigations.

Auditor-General Tan Sri Ambrin Buang Ambrin had said the production target of 38,600 head of cattle for 2010 had not been achieved because the Entrepreneur Development Programme involving 130 satellite farm entrepreneurs had not been implemented. NFC is a company registered under the Companies Commission of Malaysia with the Ministry of Finance Incorporated holding a golden share of RM1. The paid up capital of RM1.11mil was contributed by Agrosience Industries Sdn Bhd. A soft loan of RM250mil was approved for NFC through an agreement signed in Dec 2007 and, as of March 2010, RM134.7mil had been released to the company based on claims made to the Finance Ministry.