

NFC under 'Machiavellian attack', laments Izran
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The National Feedlot Corporation (NFC), the controversial company being investigated by the authorities for abusing a government loan, has reiterated its innocence and claims it is a victim of PKR.

"We have nothing to hide. We are under (a) Machiavellian political attack. We are honest in making the National Feedlot Centre a success, and it takes time," said NFC executive director Wan Shahinur Izran Salleh in his Twitter postings yesterday.

NONE While stressing that his company has been transparent in all its operations, Izran accused PKR of twisting the issue out of context.

"By the way, we never hid anything. There was media coverage every step of the way including when (the) loan agreement (was) signed. PKR (is) spinning everything," he elaborated.

NFC, a company owned by family members of Women, Family and Community Development Minister Shahrizat Abdul Jalil, was given a RM250 million government soft loan to implement the National Feedlot Centre project.

Izran is Shahrizat's son, while her husband, Mohd Salleh Ismail, holds the position of the company chairperson.

The project is meant to reduce Malaysia's beef imports but the Auditor-General's Report 2010 stated that the project is very far off its targets in delivering cattle to the Malaysian market.

Following this, several PKR leaders claimed the soft loan amounting to a quarter of a billion ringgit was used for non-cattle rearing related matters, such as financing purchases of luxury condominiums in Kuala Lumpur, a plot of prime land in Putrajaya and a luxury car.

'Same old stories'

In its latest accusation, PKR leaders suspect that Shahrizat's family members had misused the funds to purchase two upmarket condominiums in Singapore worth RM34.6 million.

However, they could not establish if those purchases were made using the soft loan.

The condos are allegedly owned by Izran and his father, Salleh.

In an immediate response yesterday, Izran lambasted PKR for trying to distract the country from problems within the opposition party by retelling the same old stories.

He however conceded that the investigations by enforcement agencies are damaging to NFC's operation.

"Now we are busy giving statements for the countless police reports that we can't do public relations, to our detriment."

Izran's mother, Shahrizat, was summoned to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) headquarters in Putrajaya for questioning over her role in the scandal.

Nevertheless, the 27-year-old entrepreneur was confident that NFC will persevere.

"We will clear our name," he said.

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