

**Hishammuddin: NFC case still open**  
**The Malaysian Insider**  
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**By Clara Chooi**

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 2 — Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein said today that Putrajaya has not closed the cattle scandal case linked to Cabinet minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil's family although police investigations have not yet revealed any element of criminal breach of trust (CBT).

"Yes, just because the CBT element is not there doesn't mean the case is over," he told reporters when asked to comment on the National Feedlot Centre (NFC) controversy.

The home minister declined to comment further on the case but confirmed that investigations are still ongoing.

Deputy Inspector-General of Police Datuk Seri Khalid Abu Bakar said yesterday that police had interviewed over 74 people in connection with the probe, including family members of the women, family and community development minister, but had discovered no element of CBT in the case.

"However, we are still continuing our investigations into the issue and will call the minister to record her statement if the need arises," he had said.

The National Feedlot Centre in Gemas, Negri Sembilan. — file pic  
PKR has repeatedly attacked the project with various allegations including the "loans" of over RM84 million given by the NFC to companies owned by Shahrizat's family and the purchase of two luxury condominiums in Bangsar for RM13.8 million.

Shahrizat has since deflected blame from herself several times, telling delegates during the ongoing assembly that the scandal has nothing to do with her.

The senior minister also reportedly received wild support from delegates when she countered the opposition's calls for her resignation by urging PKR president Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail to do the same over her husband, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's criminal charges.

But The Malaysian Insider understands some delegates are uncomfortable that the women's wing leader had chosen to use the allegations to attack the opposition instead of explaining herself.

Hishammuddin said today the public will decide Shahrizat's fate.— file pic  
When asked today if Shahrizat was now considered a "liability" to Umno because of the scandal, Hishammuddin deflected the question, saying the public would decide the minister's fate.

"I think at the end of the day the public is going to decide the fate of Umno, not the people who talk ... whether (she is) a liability or not, we will know in the next GE (general election)," he said.

The NFC has been dogged by allegations of corruption and fund misappropriation after the company made it onto the pages of the Auditor-General's Report for 2010, which described the project "as a mess".

Among others, PKR has alleged that NFC funds were used for Shahrizat's personal expenses and that of her family, as well as to buy multimillion ringgit condominium units at the luxurious One Menerung in Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur.

Shahrizat's husband and NFC boss Datuk Seri Mohamad Salleh Ismail has defended the purchase of the condo as well as denied the alleged failure of the project.

PKR scoffed at Mohamad Salleh's remarks, saying he had failed to deny a single allegation and had merely offered explanations for the many discrepancies involving the NFC.

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