

Datuk charged with cheating NFCorp boss out of RM1.7m
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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 30 — The 45-year-old Datuk suspected of trying to bribe CCID officers investigating the National Feedlot Corporation (NFCorp) has been charged with cheating at the Sessions Court here today.

Datuk Shamsubahrin Ismail allegedly cheated NFCorp chairman Datuk Dr Mohamad Salleh Ismail out of RM1.76 million in consultation fees by offering the latter fraudulent advisory services.

Shamsubahrin was charged with two counts of cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property under section 420 of the Penal Code.

He is alleged to have committed the offences on November 20 at a Bukit Tunku restaurant here and between November 25 and December 6 in Solaris Mont Kiara, also in Kuala Lumpur.

If convicted, Shamsubahrin faces a jail term of between one and 10 years with whipping and a fine.

He pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Judge Ahmad Zamzani Mohd Zain set bail at RM300,000 with one bailor and asked Shamsubahrin to surrender his passport.

The case is up for mention on January 21.

Shamsubahrin had earlier been remanded by the police for allegedly trying to bribe three to four senior CCID officers assigned to the NFCorp probe.

Police are investigating NFCorp for alleged criminal breach of trust, following accusations by PKR that the company had misused millions in federal funds meant for a cattle feedlot scheme.

Shamsubahrin, said to own a consultancy service and a premium taxi company, was later handed over to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

The national anti-graft body announced last week it would investigate claims that NFCorp had misappropriated government funds, despite previously saying it would not probe the matter.

The MACC later seized a computer CPU and several documents during a raid on NFCorp's headquarters in Solaris Mont Kiara.

PKR first latched onto the issue after the RM250 million publicly-funded cattle project - run by Mohamad Salleh, husband to federal minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Jalil - made it into the

pages of this year's Auditor-General's Report for failing to meet production targets.

The opposition party has since made several revelations relating to the scandal, including NFC's purchase of two multi-million ringgit condominium units in Bangsar and alleged use of project funds to Shahrizat and her family's personal expenses and trips abroad.

It also claimed there was a transfer of resources to unrelated companies in Singapore, as well as the purchase a Mercedes-Benz CLS350 for RM534,622 and two plots of land in Putrajaya's Precinct 10 for RM3,363,507.

The latest disclosure by PKR, made last Tuesday, further alleged that some RM10 million had been diverted towards the purchase of a luxury condominium unit in Singapore for Shahrizat's family.

Shahrizat tried deflecting attention by stating she's "only the wife" of the national cattle farming project's chairman and had nothing to do with the NFC.

The senator has faced calls to quit as minister from within Umno, including from influential former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

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