

Let Umno leadership decide Shahrizat's fate, says Raja Nong Chik
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PUTRAJAYA, Dec 6 — Umno minister Datuk Raja Nong Chik Zainal Abidin said today the party leadership should decide Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil's future, amid calls from some Umno leaders for her to resign from the Cabinet over the National Feedlot Centre (NFC) scandal.

The former Lembah Pantai MP had gained the support of both the Youth and her Wanita wings of Umno last week after denying any wrongdoing in the controversy over the RM250 million cattle farming project awarded to her family.

Raja Nong Chik said today Shahrizat had not been found guilty of any wrongdoing so "investigations should be completed first." — file pic
But other leaders including a senior Sabah Umno MP have called for the women, family and community development minister to step down instead of "troubling us."

Raja Nong Chik said today his Senate and Cabinet colleague had not been found guilty of any wrongdoing so "investigations should be completed first."

"Let the top leadership decide on her position," the federal territories and urban well-being minister said.

Shahrizat lost her Lembah Pantai seat to PKR vice president Nurul Izzah Anwar in Election 2008 and Raja Nong Chik, who is also Umno division chief there, is said to be eyeing a tilt for the seat in the next general election.

Senior Sabah Umno MP Datuk Bung Mokhtar Radin has repeatedly called for the Wanita Umno chief to resign over allegations of abuse of power in the project awarded in 2008.

He was joined by Cheras Umno division chief Datuk Wira Syed Ali Alhabsee who said yesterday Shahrizat should not wait to be shown the door by Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

PKR has repeatedly attacked the project with various allegations surrounding the "loans" of over RM84 million given by the NFC to companies owned by Shahrizat's family including RM13.8 million for two luxury condominiums in Bangsar.

Shahrizat has denied any wrongdoing.

But PKR has pointed out that RM5 million had been spent on the purchase of a Mercedes-Benz, land in Putrajaya and disbursement of RM588,585 in cash to companies belonging to her family as well as over RM455,000 issued to tour agency Impian Global Network Services.

The scandal has led to a police investigation for criminal breach of trust.

The Auditor-General's Report released last month had criticised the NFC, pointing out that it was now "in a mess".

The report said production in 2010 was only 3,289 head of cattle or 41.1 per cent of the target set.

But Agriculture Minister Datuk Seri Noh Omar responded on October 31 that the project was a success as it had met its target of 8,000 cattle by 2010 once 5,742 slaughtered cattle were taken into account.

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