

Najib Says Shahrizat's Leave Decision Appropriate
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PARIT BUNTAR, Jan 14 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak described as appropriate the decision by Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil to take a three-week's leave from her ministerial duties.

He said the decision would allow the authority to investigate whether she was involved in the National Feedlot Corporation (NFC) issue.

"I've discussed with Datuk Seri Shahrizat about the decision to take the leave, and it is an appropriate decision as it allows the authority to carry out a thorough investigation.

"Datuk Seri Shahrizat said she was willing to be investigated fully. What happens after this will depend on the outcome of the investigation," he told reporters after declaring open the National Farmers, Breeders and Fishermen's Day, here today.

Shahrizat said in a statement on Thursday that she had applied for three weeks' leave, starting Friday.

The NFC issue came to light when the 2010 Auditor-General's Report, released in October, pointed out that the corporation had failed to achieve its objectives.

The NFC is headed by Shahrizat's husband Dr Mohamad Salleh.

Najib also said that the NFC's assets had been frozen for the time being.

The prime minister also said that he had asked Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister Datuk Seri Noh Omar to study how best can the NFC issue be resolved.

The NFC is the "meat valley" project in Gemas, Negeri Sembilan aimed at increasing the production of local meat and reducing dependency on import for such product.

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