

**Noh offers cattle farms to Pakatan MPs**  
**The Malaysian Insider**  
**November 08, 2011**  
**By Yow Hong Chieh**

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 8 — Datuk Seri Noh Omar offered to let Opposition MPs have a stab at running their own cattle farms during a heated debate in Parliament on the National Feedlot Centre (NFC) today.

NFC is owned and operated by Women, Community and Family Minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Jalil's husband, Datuk Dr Mohamad Salleh Ismail, and their children, Izran and Izmir.

"Okay, now I offer these satellite farms to you," the agriculture and agro-based industry minister said while wrapping up the committee stage Supply Bill debate.

"I now offer the project to any Opposition member. I'll give it to anyone who is capable of carrying out the NFC project."

Noh (picture) was responding to PKR Wanita chief Zuraida Kamaruddin, who asked why just 20 satellite farms out of 71 planned for the NFC were in operation.

He explained that the government had found few takers for the satellite farms, which provide feeder cows to the NFC for fattening, due to the high cost involved.

Those who wish to run a satellite farm would have to purchase 300 heads of cattle and cover operating costs while the government would provide the land, infrastructure and grazing fields, he said.

Zuraida then asked why Putrajaya did not put in place a simpler scheme to ensure a greater level of participation but was told by Noh the policy had been decided by the Veterinary Services Department.

The Auditor-General's Report released last month criticised NFC for not meeting production targets, adding that the project 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.

PKR has alleged that the RM250 million soft loan given to NFC by Putrajaya was used to fund the operations of associated companies also owned by Shahrizat's family in violation of strict loan conditions.

The Opposition party noted that financial statements filed with the Companies Commission of Malaysia by NFC showed the company had drawn down RM250 million by March 31, 2009.

Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry Minister Datuk Seri Noh Omar denied the claims, which he said contradicted the findings of this year's Auditor-General's Report.

He stressed that the loan was held in a "like escrow" account, which meant all draw downs

had to be approved by a technical committee first.

The Malaysian Insider

Copyright © 2011 The Malaysian Insider

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/noh-offers-cattle-farms-to-pakatan-mps/>