

PKR claims NFC funded RM10m Shahrizat family condo
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By Shannon Teoh

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 10 — The National Feedlot Centre (NFC) paid for a RM10 million condominium belonging to National Meat and Livestocks Corporation (NMLC), a company wholly-owned by Datuk Seri Shahrizat Jalil's family, PKR said today.

Its secretary-general, Saifuddin Nasution, said the luxury apartment at One Menerung, Bangsar, was recorded by NFC, a cattle farming project managed by the minister's family, as part of a RM83 million "loan" to NMLC.

"They said the RM250 million loan for the project was in a tightly-controlled account. Is the condominium for cows to live in?" the Machang MP told a press conference in the Parliament lobby.

Umno Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin had said yesterday that funds from the soft loan could only be drawn after NFC tables a working paper and is approved by the finance ministry.

Minister of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Datuk Seri Noh Omar also said that only RM135 million had been drawn by the NFC as the funds have been placed in an escrow account.

PKR also alleged on Tuesday that over RM84 million was siphoned off from NFC to companies controlled by Shahrizat's husband, Datuk Dr Mohamad Salleh Ismail, and her children, Izran Mohamad Salleh and Izmir Mohamad Salleh.

Members of PKR and the NGO, Jingga, hold up photographs of the One Menerung condo, after lodging a report with the MACC. — Picture by Choo Choy May
Saifuddin said today that the RM9,758,140 was transferred from NFC's CIMB account in Taman Tun Dr Ismail, Kuala Lumpur to Bandar Raya Developments Berhad on December 2, 2009 as full payment for the property.

"It was not from a special trust account. So the Umno Youth chief and minister's explanations are false.

"If strict monitoring had occurred, surely RM9.8 million cannot be transferred to buy a luxury condo that has nothing to do with cattle farming. This is a clear breach of trust by Shahrizat's family," he said.

He also questioned Khairy's defence of the project, asking if the "Rembau (MP) was involved in approving the project" in 2006 "when he was a powerful Fourth Floor Boy" under his father-in-law Tun Abdullah Badawi's administration.

PKR strategic director Rafizi Ramli also asked how NFC had slaughtered 1,600 cows in 2009 and still made a loss of RM11 million that year "but can afford a luxury condo."

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 Noh responded on October 31 that the project is a success and had met its targets "as the total number of cattle brought into the farm was 8,016 between 2008 and 2010."

He has also said half of a RM13 million grant and RM115 million of the soft loan, to be repaid at a two per cent interest rate over 17 years, has not been disbursed to NFC.

Women, Family and Community Development Minister Shahrizat said yesterday that "the minister has answered at length and clearly. I am happy that the ministry will continue to monitor the success of this project."

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