

Besieged Shahrizat finds solace in Wanita Umno
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 30 — Wanita Umno expressed full support today for chief Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil, currently beset by claims of abuse involving her family's publicly-funded cattle farming project.

Addressing 944 fellow delegates at the Wanita Umno general assembly today, Parit branch leader Asmah Laily Abdul Rahmad said the Perak chapter was fully behind their chief.

"We stand strong on the left and right of Datuk Seri in anything we face for the unity of women... We will obey party decisions," she said, prompting cheers and applause from the attendees.

Bandar Tun Razak acting chief Zaleha Najmuddin shared the same sentiment, saying that "Wanita stands strongly behind Datuk Seri".

Kelantan Umno Wanita leader Dayang Saniah Awang Hamid worked up the crowd further during her debate, pointing out that Shahrizat has never lost confidence or spirit when leading the movement.

"Wanita Kelantan support Datuk Seri's leadership wholeheartedly. Give us any task, and we will perform, we will serve (you)," she said.

"Don't fear, Datuk Seri, keep leading us. I am confident support is not only from Kelantan, but from divisions all over, am I right?" she asked the animated sea of red.

"(The opposition) use the cattle issue, (but) in reality, they are the cattle," Dayang said to continued applause.

Shahrizat made headlines in recent weeks over the National Feedlot Corporation (NFC) controversy, after its operations was described in the Auditor-General's Report for 2010 as being "in a mess".

The NFC is being investigated for cheating or criminal breach of trust over its purchase of two luxury condominium units here with government funds. NFC executive chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mohamad Salleh Ismail is Shahrizat's husband.

Shahrizat maintained today that she has nothing to do with the company managed by her husband and children.

Instead she said PKR president Datuk Seri Wan Azizah Ismail should also quit for her husband Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's criminal charge if she was forced to resign as minister.

Source: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/besieged-shahrizat-finds-solace-in-wanita-umno/>