

**In NFC consolidation, PKR sees bid to cover tracks**  
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**By Yow Hong Chieh**

PETALING JAYA, Jan 12 — The National Feedlot Corporation (NFC) is trying to bury evidence of its alleged misuse of funds by proposing a takeover of unit National Meat and Livestock Company (NMLC), PKR said today.

Party strategic director Rafizi Ramli said he was informed that the NFC had called for an EGM and a special board meeting on short notice to discuss the acquisition sometime this week.

"[The] restructuring and acquisition of NMLC, which is central to the whole... scandal, is a suspicious attempt to hide their tracks and perhaps to cover more mismanagement and misappropriation that have yet to be uncovered," he told reporters at PKR headquarters here.

Rafizi reiterated that the government should freeze the assets of the NFC to ensure the police and MACC's probes into the publicly-funded cattle scheme were not jeopardised.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, who is also finance minister, should not continue to stand idly by and must step in and appoint an administrator until the probes on the NFC are completed, he stressed.

"Not just the NFC. [The] government must move in to freeze and disallow any key decisions of all companies that have benefited from the RM250 million (in federal funding) because we want to make sure we can recover back the [full amount]."

"NFC, RFC, NMLC, Agro Science and the subsidiaries in Singapore as well... All these companies benefited and are paid for from the RM250 million loan given by the government," Rafizi said.

Rafizi said it was vital to put the NFC under administration to prevent possible abuse. — File pic

He pointed out it was bad enough that the authorities had awarded the cattle-raising scheme to NFC "haphazardly", but that it would be even more negligent of them to allow the company to transfer out more money after the allegations of financial abuse surfaced.

NFC chairman Datuk Mohamad Salleh Ismail declined to confirm if an EGM and board meeting have been called.

"Their (PKR) objective is to discredit the NFC all the time. So whatever we want to do, they will go to the press," he told The Malaysian Insider.

Police are probing the NFC for possible criminal breach of trust following PKR's allegations that millions in federal funds meant for the cattle-raising scheme had been misappropriated.

The opposition party first latched onto the issue after the NFC, run by Mohamad Salleh,

made it into last year's Auditor-General's Report for failing to meet production targets.

Mohamad Salleh, a former food science head at Universiti Pertanian Malaysia, is husband to federal minister and Wanita Umno chief Datuk Seri Shahrizat Jalil.

PKR has since made several revelations relating to the scandal, including NFC's purchase of two luxury condominium units in Bangsar and the alleged use of project funds to pay for Shahrizat and her family's personal expenses.

It also claimed there was a transfer of resources to unrelated companies in Singapore, as well as the purchase of a Mercedes-Benz CLS350 for RM534,622 and two plots of land in Putrajaya's Precinct 10 for RM3,363,507.

PKR further alleged that some RM10 million had been diverted towards the purchase of a luxury condominium unit in Singapore for Shahrizat's family.

Shahrizat has tried to deflect attention by stating she is "only the wife" of the national cattle farming project's chairman and has nothing to do with the NFC.

The senator has faced calls to quit as minister from within Umno, including from influential former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

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