

**Shahrizat asks for leave as MACC probes NFC**  
**The Malaysian Insider**  
**January 12, 2012**  
**By Shannon Teoh**

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 12 — Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil has applied for leave from her duties as minister after new allegations of bribery surfaced today involving the RM250 million National Feedlot Centre (NFC) project run by her family.

The women, family and community development minister said in a statement this evening that she has asked Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak to give her three weeks leave starting from tomorrow.

"I hope the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) will be able to investigate whether or not I was involved in any of the decisions made by the government on the NFC in which my husband, Datuk Seri Dr Mohammad Salleh Ismail, is the executive chairman," she said.

The Wanita Umno chief refused to comment earlier today when asked by reporters about PKR's latest allegation involving the national cattle farming project.

PKR had disclosed earlier today an email detailing how NFC's lawyer allegedly told a MACC advisory board member that an official in the company had been tricked into paying money to a "conman" to influence a police probe into the national cattle farming project.

According to the email, the lawyer told the advisory board member how the NFC official had been tricked into paying money to a "conman" — understood to be Datuk Shamsubahrin Ismail — to allegedly influence ongoing investigations by the police.

Tan Sri Megat Najmuddin Megat Khas confirmed to The Malaysian Insider this evening he authored the email which PKR presented earlier today as proof that a top National Feedlot Corporation (NFC) official had allegedly tried to bribe the police.

"He (the lawyer) told us about this conman's story, about how this sweet-talking guy managed to convince his desperate client to part with his money so that he can get the police to be 'less brutal' in their interrogation!

"It's sad to see how stupid one can get when you are stuck 'between a rock and a hard place'!" the email said.

Shamsubahrin was recently charged with cheating NFC chairman Datuk Seri Mohamad Salleh Ismail of RM1.76 million in fraudulent consultancy fees.

Mohamed Salleh, who is Shahrizat's husband, had earlier said Shamsubahrin was neither a relative nor has he ever been an NFC employee.

Police and the MACC are probing the NFC for possible criminal breach of trust following PKR's allegations that at least RM27 mill in federal funds meant for the cattle raising scheme had been used to purchase land and property unrelated to cattle farming. The opposition

party first latched onto the issue after the NFC, which lists all three of Shahrizat's children as directors, made it into last year's Auditor-General's Report for failing to meet production targets.

PKR has since made several revelations relating to the scandal, including NFC's purchase of two luxury condominium units in Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur, 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 (picture) has denied any wrongdoing and stated she is "only the wife" of the project's chairman.

The senator has faced calls to quit from within Umno including influential former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

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