

Despite asset freeze, NFCorp says 'business as usual'
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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 15 — The National Feedlot Corporation's (NFCorp) operations were "uninterrupted" by the temporary freeze on placed on its assets while the firm is probed by police and graftbusters, its executive director said today.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak announced yesterday that the assets of the company operating the publicly-funded National Feedlot Centre (NFC) project have been frozen pending the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission's (MACC) investigations into graft allegations surrounding the firm.

Najib said he had also instructed Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin along with Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry Minister Datuk Seri Noh Omar to study how best to resolve the NFC issue.

"Business is as usual in the company. Inventory of beef will continue to be supplied and all customer orders will be fulfilled. There is no interruption or disruption," said NFCorp executive director Wan Shahinur Izmir Salleh in a statement.

Wan Shahinur confirmed that NFCorp's assets had been frozen by the authorities since December last year, but stressed that operations continued as normal.

"And so I would like to reassure our clients and vendors as well as our employees that they will continue to be served and gainfully employed," he said.

The statement pointed out that the company had received a further import shipment of 1,500 heads of cattle from Australia last week.

The RM250 million NFC project is operated by the husband and children of federal minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil.

DAP's Lim Kit Siang today demanded an independent, "no-holds-barred" public inquiry to look into allegations of financial misappropriation surrounding the NFC, saying the mere freezing of assets pending investigations by the MACC and the police was inadequate and gave scant indication that this would lead to a full-blown inquiry on the scandal itself.

The NFC issue came to light when the 2010 Auditor-General's Report pointed out that the corporation had badly failed to meet production targets.

Shahrizat applied for three weeks' leave from her duties last week, after new allegations of bribery surfaced recently in the NFC project.

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