

Perkasa: NFCorp assets should have been frozen last year
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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 15 — The government should have frozen the National Feedlot Corporation's (NFCorp) assets the moment allegations of graft surrounding the project surfaced in November last year, Perkasa said today.

President of the Malay rights group, Datuk Ibrahim Ali, said this was because the public wanted swift and fast action from the government in this issue.

"Action should have been taken from the start, as soon as the NFC issue came up, people want to see immediate action taken... this will be applauded by Malaysians," he was quoted by Sinar Harian as saying.

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.

Today, the Pasir Mas MP said there should be no speculation on the case until investigations were complete, adding the public should place their utmost confidence in the MACC to get to the bottom of the matter.

"But because of games by the opposition, any issue on the part of the federal government or [Barisan Nasional] states, they are immediately considered guilty.

"But if it happened in Pakatan Rakyat states, they will say that it is slander by BN and that it is untrue... even if it is true they will accuse BN of wanting to ridicule PR," he said.

Earlier today, DAP's Lim Kit Siang 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.

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

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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