

NFCorp says audit is chance to dispel abuse claims
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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 25 — The National Feedlot Corporation (NFCorp) welcomed today the government-directed audit of its books as a chance to clear its name of public funds abuse allegations.

"It will help allay public concerns and criticism as the findings of the independent audit would bring out the hard facts of the project," NFCorp said in a statement.

It said the audit would hopefully dispel misconceptions about NFCorp and help restore the company's credibility, which has been dented by such "irresponsible allegations".

NFCorp executive director Izmir Salleh added that the livestock company was cooperating fully with police and anti-graft officers investigating the company for alleged abuse of federal funds and would await the outcome of the probe.

The publicly funded company hit the headlines following last year's Auditor-General's Report, and has continued to hog the limelight after it was linked to Shahrizat's family.

NFCorp is run by Datuk Seri Mohamad Salleh Ismail is Shahrizat's husband. Their three children also hold executive posts in the company.

PKR has since made several revelations relating to the scandal, including NFCorp'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.

The opposition party has also alleged that Shahrizat's family used nearly RM600,000 from NFCorp's funds to settle their credit card bills in 2009.

But the management of NFCorp has maintained that the credit card expenses were solely for business purposes.

It has also denied allegations that funds from the RM250 million government loan were channelled into its accounts before the loan agreement was signed.

NFCorp chairman Mohamad Salleh added on Monday that the Auditor-General's Report had confused his company and the National Feedlot Centre (NFC) project, which was under the purview of the Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry Ministry.

Shahrizat applied for three weeks' leave from her duties earlier this month after new allegations of bribery surfaced.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin announced last week Putrajaya would appoint an auditor to scrutinise NFCorp's books, in light of accusations made against the company.

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