

DPM: Firm Owned By Shahrizat's Family Must Clarify Issue On NFC
Bernama
November 15, 201

PUTRAJAYA, Nov 15 (Bernama) -- The company owned by Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil's family must come forward to clarify on the issue involving the National Feedlot Centre (NFC), said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

He said a clarification was necessary because currently, many matters and information related to NFC had been exposed and were being talked about by people. "Now the government has clarified (the issue)..maybe to one stage. It is up to the party involved to explain so that the situation is more clearly understood by the community.

"(An explanation is necessary), on how the issue cropped up, how to handle, how about the situation of livestock industries and the response to what happened in the Auditor-General report (2010). It is up to them," he said.

He said this to reporters after chairing a special meeting on preparations for floods at his office here, Tuesday.

Muhyiddin was asked to comment on Kinabatangan Member of Parliament Datuk Bung Mokhtar Radin' call for Shahrizat to quit over her family's participation in the NFC.

He said Agriculture and Agro-based Industries Minister Datuk Seri Noh Omar had explained the matter last week and it should have been well-received by the parties involved.

Asked about Bung Mokhtar's call for Shahrizat to resign or give an explanation on the issue, Muhyiddin said he left it to Bung Mokhtar to think if Shahrizat should quit or otherwise.

"I think Bung Mokhtar's call is not too necessary. Such matters should be just between us because it indirectly implies that Shahrizat is involved.

"The truth is, this is a question of business operation which is managed by her family, but Shahrizat herself is not involved," he said.

Meanwhile, In KUALA LUMPUR, former prime minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi suggested that NFC executive chairman Datuk Dr Mohamad Salleh Ismail give an explanation to members of parliament on issues raised by the 2010 Auditor-General's report on the cattle rearing project.

Abdullah said one should not be too quick to give views and conclusions on the matter.

Asked to comment on the purchase of a luxury condominium using NFC funds, he said it was a good question to ask Dr Mohamad Salleh. NFC, appointed by the government as the national cattle rearing project integrator with a capital of RM250 million, was reported to have used the funds to buy a luxury condominium valued at RM9.8 million.

Speaking on the same matter, Umno Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin said he was looking into an invitation to debate the issue with PKR's strategic director Rafizi Ramli.

"I will discuss the matter and announce a date later," he told reporters.

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