

Calls for Shahrizat to quit 'unnecessary', says DPM
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PUTRAJAYA, Nov 15 — Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said today that Datuk Seri Shahrizat Jalil is not directly involved in National Feedlot Corporation (NFC), the cattle-farming project managed by the minister's family.

He said this in response to Umno's Kinabatangan MP Datuk Bung Moktar Radin's call yesterday in the Dewan Rakyat that those responsible for the NFC fiasco should resign.

Allegations of financial impropriety have dogged the company owned by Shahrizat's family after the Auditor-General revealed last month that the NFC had failed to meet production targets for 2010, despite benefiting from a RM134.72 million soft loan from the government.

"He (Bung Moktar) didn't say directly that Shahrizat (picture) is involved because this is a business that is run by her family, but she is not involved," Muhyiddin told reporters.

However, he said Bung Moktar's resignation call was unnecessary "especially among our own people".

"The minister of agriculture and agro-based industry (Datuk Seri Noh Omar) has responded in Parliament, and it has been discussed and explained in detail for more than one hour and should be well received," he said.

"Whether it is right (to call for resignation) Datuk Bung Moktar can think for himself," he added.

Muhyiddin said the issue has raised many questions and the company involved would have to come up with its own explanation.

He said a thorough explanation would help people understand the issue better.

He also said the company should be given the chance to respond to what was said in the Auditor-General's Report.

"It is up to them," he said.

The Auditor-General's Report, released last month, had criticised the NFC, pointing out that it was now "in a mess".

The report said production in 2010 was only 3,289 head of cattle or 41.1 per cent of the target set.

But Noh Omar responded on October 31 by saying that the project was a success and had met its targets.

Source: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/shahrizat-need-not-quit-over-cattle-fiasco-says-dpm/>