

Shamsubahrin claims proof did not 'cheat' NFCorp boss
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By Shazwan Mustafa Kamal

PUTRAJAYA, March 7 — Datuk Shamsubahrin Ismail today handed over his mobile phone as well as text message transcripts to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), claiming these proved he did not cheat Datuk Seri Mohamad Salleh Ismail of RM1.76 million in consultancy fees.

Mohamad Salleh is the chairman of the National Feedlot Corporation (NFCorp), which is at the centre of a scandal involving RM250 million in government loans.

"I am innocent. The reason I came here is to hand over evidence... which will show that I have not cheated Datuk Salleh," he told reporters when met outside of the MACC headquarters here.

It is understood that MACC officials are now in possession of Shamsubahrin's mobile phone, transcripts of text messages between him and a "key figure" from the NFCorp as well as a statement recorded by the anti-graft officers today.

One of Shamsubahrin's lawyers, N. Surendran, told reporters that the evidence given to the MACC supports allegations of "attempts to bribe the police" by individuals within NFCorp.

"The SMSes will show that a key figure from NFCorp had tried to bribe the police to close the case... there have been attempts to bribe the police," the PKR vice-president charged.

Surendran claimed that MACC officials had Shamsubahrin's mobile phone in their possession when the consultant was remanded by the police, but did not conduct any investigations despite Shamsubahrin's insistence that he had evidence to prove his innocence.

"The MACC already had the evidence before, why was there no action taken then? Why take action against the whistleblower instead?" asked Surendran.

The lawyer also charged that MACC staff were uncooperative today when recording Shamsubahrin's statement, and that he (Surendran) as well as other lawyers were initially barred from being present during the interview process, which was recorded on video.

After almost an hour of negotiations, the MACC finally agreed to allow Shamsubahrin's lawyers to "view" the interview between officials and the consultant, said Surendran.

"We had visual contact, but we could not be in the same room as Shamsubahrin. We are disappointed with the attitude shown by the MACC. They prevented lawyers from being present with their client.

"I will bring this matter up with the Bar Council," added the PKR man.

Shamsubahrin was charged last December with cheating Mohamad Salleh, husband to

minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil, of RM1.76 million in fraudulent consultancy fees

He will be tried at the Sessions Court on April 4

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