

Why go abroad when targets have not been met, Rafizi asks NFCorp
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KUALA LUMPUR, March 1 — The National Feedlot Corporation (NFCorp) has no business expanding overseas if it cannot even meet its production quotas for the local market, Rafizi Ramli said today.

The PKR strategic director said a source in the Department of Veterinary Services had disclosed that the National Feedlot Centre (NFC) only managed to produce 400 tonnes of beef annually in its first two years, only 0.8 per cent of the government's 50,000 tonne target.

He also pointed out that NFC, which the NFCorp supervises, slaughtered just six head of cattle on average every day between 2008 and 2010 compared to the 800 needed to fulfil 40 per cent of local market demand.

"The difference between the targets set by national policy and what the NFC has achieved thus far is like as heaven and earth," Rafizi (picture) said in a statement.

"NFCorp has no right to speak of new overseas markets so long as the 40 per cent target is not fulfilled because that was the reason NFC was established."

He added he was still waiting for NFCorp to explain why it used its RM250 million federal loan to invest in activities abroad that had nothing to do with the purpose of the loan.

NFCorp chairman Datuk Seri Mohamad Salleh Ismail told The Malaysian Insider yesterday that the company intends to sell its beef products abroad as the local market was too small to support its intended output.

Salleh explained that NFCorp was now building up the market in Singapore and would likely do the same in Indonesia in future as the NFC would produce 78,000 tonnes of beef by 2015 once its abattoir was operational.

The NFC was set up in 2007 to provide food security and import substitution for beef from abroad.

"When we have this many tonnes of beef, the Malaysian market will not buy everything so we have to find other places to sell," he said yesterday.

Salleh was responding to claims that he and his family had used NFCorp's federal loan as leverage to obtain loans from two commercial banks to start a supermarket venture in Singapore.

However, he declined to comment on his family's alleged links to Farmhouse Supermarkets, only stating that NFCorp would issue a statement soon to "explain in the proper context".

NFCorp hit the headlines after it made it into the Auditor-General's Report last year, and has

continued to hog the limelight after it was linked to federal minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Jalil.

Salleh, a former food science head at Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (UPM), is Shahrizat's husband. He runs the company with their three children.

PKR has made several claims of abuse over NFCorp's federal loan involving over RM62 million spent on land, property and other expenses unrelated to cattle raising.

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

Commercial crimes investigators said last week they will recommend to the Attorney-General's Chambers that all NFCorp directors be charged with criminal breach of trust.

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