

**Dr M, Rafidah 'taken in' by PKR duo's allegations, says Shahrizat
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By Ida Lim and Leannza Chia**

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 15 — Former Minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Jalil told the High Court today that Barisan Nasional (BN) leaders were "completely taken in" by statements made by PKR's Rafizi Ramli and Zuraida Kamaruddin, but disagreed that they were "brainwashed" by the duo.

The Wanita Umno chief was testifying during cross-examination by defence lawyer Ranjit Singh in her defamation suit against PKR's Rafizi Ramli and Zuraida Kamaruddin over their statements in relation to the National Feedlot Centre (NFC) scandal.

Ranjit had read out reports of various BN leaders including former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and former Minister Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz, asking for Shahrizat (picture) to quit her party positions and ministerial post following the controversy around the NFC project.

Ranjit had asked her if the BN leaders' statements were made based on their fact-checking or they were "completely taken in" by the PKR duo's statements.

"They were completely taken in by what the first and second defendants said," Shahrizat said.

Ranjit then asked if she agreed "people no less than" the former prime minister and Rafidah could be "completely taken in" by the "wild" allegations made against her.

"All I know is that they are normal human beings. Because of political assassination and defamation, they could have been influenced, I have no idea..." she said.

Earlier, Ranjit had asked if she agreed that "well-established BN leaders were effectively brainwashed by first and second defendants".

Shahrizat said: "No."

PKR has repeatedly attacked the NFC project with various allegations surrounding the "loans" of over RM84 million given by the NFC to companies owned by Shahrizat's family, including RM13.8 million for two luxury condominiums in Bangsar.

Shahrizat, who is the wife of National Feedlot Corp (NF Corp) chairman Datuk Seri Mohamad Salleh Ismail, had been linked to the scandal by PKR because of her husband's position, and their three children's directorships in the same firm.

Mohamed Salleh was charged with criminal breach of trust and violating the Companies Act in relation to RM49 million in federal funds given to NFCorp on March 12.

The 64-year-old was charged under the Penal Code relating to CBT for misappropriating RM9,758,140 from NFCorp's funds to purchase two condominium units at the One Menerung

complex in Bangsar for the National Meat and Livestock Corporation (NMLC) on December 1 and December 4, 2009.

He was also charged with transferring RM40 million of NFCorp's funds to the NMLC between May 6 and November 16, 2009.

He was further charged in both cases for using the said funds without any approval from the company's annual general meeting, which is an offence under the Companies Act.

If found guilty, he faces between two and 20 years' jail, whipping, and a fine for the offences under the Penal Code.

Mohamad Salleh also faces a five-year jail term or RM30,000 fine for the charges proffered under the Companies Act.

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