

Shahrizat **sues** PKR 2 for RM100m

> Minister alleges 'orchestrated attack against NFC and her family'

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KUALA LUMPUR: Women, Family and

Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil has filed a RM100 million suit for defamation against Ampang MP Zuraida Kamaruddin and Parti Keadilan Rakyat strategy

director Mohd Rafizi Ramli.

Her lawyer Datuk Seri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah filed the suit at the High Court Registry on Jalan Duta yesterday.

The Umno women's wing chief said in her statement of claim that the Agriculture Ministry had in 2006 or thereabout, invited tenders from various companies to act as developer and integrator of a feedlot project (National Feedlot Project).

The ministry and an appointed selection committee for high impact projects had, after evaluating the proposals, awarded the tender to Agro Science Industry Sdn Bhd and one other company. She said the committee had been specifically established by the government to assess high impact projects.

"The decision to award the project was also not brought before the cabinet, and hence the plaintiff did not and was not in a position to participate in or influence the Ministry of Agriculture or the Special Committee for High Impact Projects in the decision-making process," the statement said.

"At all times, the plaintiff did not hold any position in the NFC and was not involved in any part of the decision-making process to award the project to Agro Science," it said.

Shahrizat is married to Datuk Seri Dr

Mohamad Salleh Ismail who is currently NFC chairman.

Shahrizat claimed that Rafizi, 35, and Zuraida, 54, had in November last year, issued press statements and held press conferences in which they began "an orchestrated attack against the NFC and her husband and family".

Shahrizat said Rafizi had also published articles in his blog at www.rafiziramli.com which contained defamatory statements. She said Zuraida, who is also PKR women's wing chief, published defamatory articles on PKR's official news website www.keadilandaily.com.

Shahrizat contended that the defendants' statements were false and malicious. She is seeking RM50 million in general damages and another RM50 million in aggravated and exemplary damages. She also seeks an injunction to restrain the defendants from further making statements in connection with any matter concerning the NFC or associated companies.

Meanwhile, Rafizi said in a statement yesterday that he and Zuraida were ready to meet with Shahrizat in relation to the suit, describing it as a political move to "silence" revelations that PKR had made about alleged misspending and graft on her family's part. He also said Shahrizat should face the "people's court" over the revelations.