

Scrutiny by MACC of 50 text messages

PUTRAJAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission is checking about 50 text messages exchanged between National Feedlot Corporation (NFCorp) corporate adviser and consultant Datuk Shamsubahrin Ismail and the corporation's chairman Datuk Seri Mohamad Salleh Ismail.

Shamsubahrin, who is facing cheating allegations, claimed the text messages were evidence to support his allegations that employees of NFCorp had attempted to bribe the police.

Yesterday, MACC investigators spent nearly six hours taking down a statement from Shamsubahrin at their headquarters here.

Shamsubahrin said he went to the MACC yesterday as a witness in their investigation.

"I am here today because they wanted me to explain each and every SMS that transpired between me and Salleh," he said after the recording of his statement ended at 5pm.

On March 7, Shamsubahrin had handed over his mobile phone which contained the text conversation as well as a transcript of the text messages. MACC investigators had then also taken his statement.

Shamsubahrin was accompanied by his lawyers, Latheefa Koya, Murnie Hidayah Anuar and Zarina Ismail.

Latheefa and Murnie, who alternated in the sit-in with Shamsubahrin during the MACC interview, were upset when investigators served them a notice to record their statement yesterday.

"We do not know why the MACC wants to record our statement as we are here not as witnesses.

"We are here to represent our client which is why we demanded to sit in when his statement was recorded," Latheefa said.

"This is the first time that lawyers representing their client have been issued such a notice by MACC. How can we be investigated under the same section used by MACC against Shamsubahrin?"

She said they would consult the Bar Council before deciding whether they should give a statement scheduled for Friday.

Shamsubahrin was also upset after discovering that one of his three vehicles -- a Mitsubishi Grandis, Mitsubishi ASX and Mitsubishi Triton -- seized by the MACC in December last year had been damaged.

"I discovered that the right rear door window of my Mitsubishi ASX, parked at the MACC parking lot here, was cracked after my driver told me this (yesterday) morning," he said.

