

NFCorp's Salleh wants Auditor-General to clarify

KUALA LUMPUR: The National Feedlot Corporation (NFCorp) said it was not the entity highlighted in the Auditor-General's report.

Its chairman Datuk Mohamad Salleh Ismail, said there was a confusion between NFCorp and the National Feedlot Centre (NFC).

"It is the centre which is in a 'mess' and not the company I'm heading. My company is meeting the target," he said when contacted by the *New Straits Times* yesterday.

When asked why he had not clarified this earlier, Salleh said he had only realised that the two had been confused when investigations began on the centre and the company.

Salleh said he had written to Auditor-General's Department two weeks ago to highlight this matter.

"I hope they issue an official statement soon to clarify this.

"This matter has been going on for so long and various quarters have given their views, I just want this to be cleared."

Asked who owns the centre, Salleh said: "The centre is owned by the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry."

Earlier, Salleh, who is the husband to Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil, had called for a meeting with Perkasa and 11 other

NGO's to brief them on the NFCorp.

Perkasa chief Datuk Ibrahim Ali said he was satisfied with the briefing given by Salleh and urged the Auditor-General to be fair to everyone by making a formal announcement on the matter.

He added that the Auditor-General's Department may have made a small mistake when preparing the national audit report as not all staff "were trained equally well".

"When they did the report, there were some elements that were accurate and some not so accurate because of weaknesses of the officers."

However, Ibrahim stressed that he was not taking sides and that he

would leave it to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) and the police to carry out a proper investigation into NFCorp's finances.

He added that Perkasa will stand by the results of the probe by authorities, pointing out that it was the group's responsibility to fight abuse of power and corruption.

On Friday, it was reported that, the Attorney-General's Chambers had returned the investigation papers on the NFCorp to the police.

In confirming the matter, its head of prosecution, Tun Abdul Majid Tun Hamzah, said it wanted the police to investigate the case further.

"The police had delivered the report to us on Tuesday, but we have since returned the papers," Majid had told the *New Straits Times*.

The police had, on Monday, completed their investigation after recording 54 statements, including those from NFC.

The controversy surrounding NFC started after the 2010 Auditor-General's Report described the project as "messy" and had failed to meet government targets.

NFC is the meat-valley project in Gemas, Negri Sembilan, aimed at increasing the production of meat and reducing dependency on import for such products.