

PRIME NEWS

Shahrizat files RM100m suit against PKR duo

DEFAMATION CASE:

Minister claims two had made malicious statements about her over National Feedlot Corporation issue

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DATUK Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil has filed a RM100 million defamation suit against Parti Keadilan Rakyat strategic director Mohd Rafizi Ramli and Ampang member of parliament Zuraida Kamaruddin over their allegations on the National Feedlot Corporation (NFC) issue.

The suit was filed by lawyer Datuk Seri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah at the High Court registry

here yesterday.

The women, family and community development minister, in the suit, claimed that in November, the defendants started holding a series of press conferences at various locations, including at the Parliament lobby and had orchestrated an attack against NFC, her husband and family.

(Shahrizat's husband, Datuk Seri Dr Mohamed Salleh Ismail, is the executive chairman of NFC and their children are directors of the company).

Shahrizat, who is also Wanita Umno chief, had alleged the defendants made scathing and malicious statements against her by attaching culpability to her for all issues connected with NFC.

She added that this was done despite the fact that she did not hold any post or equity in NFC, the Agro Science Industry or its associated companies.

She said the words used by Rafizi were meant to mean that she was involved in the award process of the feedlot project to NFC and, therefore, involved in misappropriation.

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Shahrizat alleged that his words meant that she had abused her position as a minister and Wanita Umno chief to procure and influence the decision to award the National Feedlot project to the Agro-Science Industry.

She claimed that the defamatory words were meant to mean that her scandalous involvement in NFC would drag Umno and Barisan Nasional into her private scandal.

She also said the words used by Zuraida were understood to mean that the plaintiff was involved in the "mark up" and subsidising of meat products from NFC so that she and her family members could pocket the difference.

Shahrizat alleged Zuraida's words meant that she was the type of leader that lowered the dignity of women and that she was involved in misappropriation and abuse of power.

The minister said the words also meant that her behaviour and mentality was likened to that of a cow.

She claimed that the defendants

made libelous and slanderous statements against her and caused them to be published in the mainstream media, and on websites and blogs.

As a result, she claimed she had been defamed and suffered considerable loss, hurt and embarrassment to her good name and her reputation as a person, politician, government minister and Wanita Umno chief.

She claimed that she suffered anxiety, humiliation and embarrassment by virtue of her being a prominent public figure in Malaysia and overseas.

She also alleged that she suffered considerable loss of reputation by virtue of persistent repetition of these allegations and defamatory statements on the Internet and social networking sites, such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

Shahrizat is seeking RM50 million as general damages and another RM50 million as aggravated and exemplary damages. She is also seeking an injunction to restrain the defendants from making further statements against her.