

'Don't love your post too much'

> Dr M tells Shahrizat to put party above self-interest

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SEDANG: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has advised embattled Women and Family Development Minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil to put Umno above self-interest.

"Don't love your post too much ... even I stepped down," he said, adding that the minister should "think of the damage it is doing to the party".

Mahathir was referring to the controversy surrounding the National Feedlot Corporation (NFCorp), which is run by Shahrizat's family and which has been accused of improper use of a RM250 million soft loan from the government to run a cattle breeding programme in Gemas.

Mahathir said Shahrizat, who is also Wanita Umno chief, should take appropriate action in the interest of the party.

"I am not asking her to resign but we

should always think of the problems we are creating for the party.

"That is why, I myself after being too long (in the party) and people were getting (fed) up of me, had stepped down from my post.

"So, don't love your position too much that you don't want to let go. One day, we still have to do so," he told a news conference, here.

Mahathir had earlier delivered his inaugural address as Perdana University chancellor.

The veteran politician however, said the decision to quit or stay rests with Shahrizat.

"It's up to her what decision she wants to make," he said.

This is the second time Mahathir has publicly hinted that Shahrizat should quit over the NFC controversy.

In December last year, he said Shahrizat should understand the repercussions to the party following the controversy.

The NFCorp came into the limelight

following the Auditor-General's 2010 report which stated that the cattle breeding centre, which was set up to reduce beef imports, had failed to meet its targets.

Following this, Parti Keadilan Rakyat politicians made a series of allegations that NFCorp, which is run by Shahrizat's husband, Datuk Dr Mohamad Salleh Ismail, had used the money from the soft-loan to purchase property.

Both the police and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission are investigating the scandal.

On another matter, Mahathir claimed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak could be a target for a regime change perpetrated by the United States and Israel who want parliamentary opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to take power.

Urging Najib to be cautious, Mahathir claimed both countries want to see Anwar in power.

"I am warning him that he is a target of a regime change so he must be careful."