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FEBRUARY 9, 2012

Shahrizat quizzed

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PUTRAJAYA: Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil gave her statement to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) yesterday as part of its probe into the National Feedlot Corporation (NFCorp) scandal.

Shahrizat, who spent two-and-a-half hours having her statement recorded, arrived at the MACC headquarters at 4pm, and was met by MACC director of investigations Datuk Mustafar Ali. Speaking to reporters later, the minister said she had told MACC officers that she had not been involved in any decision-making with regard to NFCorp.

"I came here because I'm married to the CEO of NFCorp, so the questions were whether there was a conflict of interest in the decision making," she said.

"It's very clear cut. I made it very clearly

known that I was never involved (in NFCorp). Anyway there are official papers to verify this," she added.

Shahrizat's husband, Datuk Mohamed Salleh Ismail, is chairman of NFCorp, and her children are directors in the company. NFCorp has been in the headlines after allegations that it misappropriated a RM250 million soft loan from the government surfaced late last year.

The company had been awarded the contract to run the National Feedlot Centre in Gemas, which is a cattle breeding project projected to reduce the import of beef into the country.

However, NFCorp came under fire following the Auditor-General's 2010 report that the cattle breeding project had failed to meet targets. Following repeated allegations of misuse of funds, the company's assets were frozen by the government after investigations were launched by the police and the MACC.

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Shahrizat arriving at the MACC headquarters in Putrajaya yesterday.