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Umno-AP (Khairy)

GOVT SHOWS TRANSPARENCY IN MAKING PUBLIC LIST OF AP RECIPIENTS, SAYS
KHAIRY

KUALA LUMPUR, July 20 (Bernama) -- The government showed its transparency by releasing the names of recipients of Approved Permits (APs) to import cars, Umno Youth Vice-Head Khairy Jamaluddin said today.

"The party president (Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi) has for long talked about the issue, as such we must face reality. If these are the facts, then we have to show them; so be it.

"If AP holders have no showrooms, don't sell cars but sell APs in the secondary market, it is a major abuse to which we have to find a solution," he told reporters after Umno Youth Chief Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein delivered his policy speech at the wing's general assembly, here.

Khairy was asked to comment on the government's release of the list of AP recipients following the controversy that arose regarding the issue of APs.

The controversy emerged after former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the issuing of too many APs had brought about unfair competition to the national car maker, Proton. Dr Mahathir is advisor to Proton.

Dr Mahathir said recently that many car importers had under-declared the value of their imports and sold the vehicles at way below their actual price.

He had also questioned how 20 companies could be given the bulk of more than 50,000 APs issued when in fact the APs were meant to help as many Bumiputeras as possible to venture into the automotive business.

Subsequently, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi asked International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz to answer all points raised by Dr Mahathir, to which she did in writing.

-- BERNAMA

SYZ MKO RON HA MGN