

Minister's AP among those said to be cloned

PUTRAJAYA: Approved Permits belonging to a minister and several big shots were among those cloned by a company linked to the senator who is under probe for importing cars through fake documents.

A highly-placed source said the minister's AP was cloned without his knowledge and the covert dealings extended to making use of a car company's name without its knowledge.

"We have seized a cloned AP bearing the name of the minister.

"The document was used to illegally bring in imported cars using

the name of another car company," the source told the *New Straits Times*.

Investigations, have revealed that the car company management did not know that its name had been used to bring in the vehicles and subsequent information pointed to a company owned by the senator as the culprit.

The source added that investigations into the scam by the senator's company started about two years ago.

The minister concerned, when contacted, refused to comment, saying that he would leave it to the

authorities (Customs) to investigate.

The NST reported yesterday that the Customs had solid evidence to prove that the senator's company was involved in the scam after the seizure of luxury cars imported through fake documents.

A source had said the senator pleaded ignorance as he had little knowledge about the company's day-to-day management.

But Customs is not buying this excuse. The source had said investigation papers on the case would be submitted to the Attorney-General's Chambers soon.

"The Customs and Excise Department has to get the green light from the A-G before we can charge a prominent person in court. This is the procedure normally applied when public figures or VIPs are involved.

"The Customs legal adviser is preparing a report for submission to the A-G."

On Friday, Customs director-general Datuk Abdul Rahman Abdul Hamid had said that three companies in the Klang Valley would be charged under the Customs Act for tax-related offences involving millions of ringgit.