

Senator denies role in AP scam

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KOTA BARU: A Kelantan politician came forward yesterday to concede that he was the person implicated in a scam of cloned Approved Permits to import cars illegally.

However, Datuk Muhammad Abdul Ghani, the vice-chief of the Kubang Kerian Umno division, denied that he did it or that he had collaborated with his son in cloning the APs.

He said though his son's signature was on the APs awarded to his company, his son was not involved in the scam.

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Muhammad

quences.

"I leave it all to the Customs to investigate.

"Do as they wish as long as they don't implicate me because I am not involved," he said at a Press conference here.

Muhammad said although the front-page report by the *New Straits Times* yesterday did not mention his name, he was the only senator to whom the government had awarded APs.

"I was shocked after reading the report.

"The senator mentioned is none other than me.

"I am the only one (senator) in the country with APs to import cars," he said.

Muhammad had also lodged a police report at 2.30pm yesterday against *Berita Harian* which also published the story.

The reports mentioned a sen-

ator and his son who were said to be allegedly involved in a cloned AP scam to import cars illegally.

The APs were under the senator's name and were given to his three-year-old company that is being run by his son.

The Customs Department said the company could make as much as RM500,000 a month from the sale of cloned APs.

Muhammad said he immediately contacted the Customs Department to clear the air over the news report and claimed he was told by a Customs Department official that the APs were cloned by other individuals.

"My company couldn't have amassed RM500,000.

"That is too much. Note that the APs were being cloned by other parties who would earn the profits, not my company."