

Mohd Said: I'm ready to explain

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KUALA LUMPUR: Jasin MP, Datuk Mohd Said Yusof, says he is ready to explain his position to the Prime Minister and his deputy over allegations that he tried to interfere in Customs work by asking them to close one eye to an illegal consignment of imported logs.

But he has taken issue with the *New Straits Times* for linking him to smut VCDs seized by Malacca Customs in 1999.

"I haven't received anything yet," he said yesterday when asked if he had been summoned by Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi or Datuk Seri Najib Razak to explain the controversy surrounding him.

Mohd Said said he had also not been contacted by the Anti-Corruption Agency.

He said this when responding to Abdullah's statement on Thursday about having "to clear a few points".

Abdullah had also said Najib as BN Whip would have the last say on the matter.

"Your report yesterday, are all lies. It is unfair to me," he said of the NST report linking him and his company Purnama Mutiara to the seizure of 7,000 smuggled pirated VCDs,

2,000 of them pornographic, to Indonesia.

He said Purnama Mutiara was the vehicle he used as a forwarding agent in 1999 and the incident referred to did not happen at the Kuala Linggi Port but the Malacca River Port.

"Purnama Mutiara was the forwarding agent for the VCDs. As agents, we only handled the goods. We only acted for our clients."

He said Purnama Mutiara also acted as a ticketing agent for a ferry service to Indonesia.

Mohd Said said the compound issued for the seizure of VCDs in 1999 was not to his company but to the VCD compound which they had acted for as a forwarding agent.

"I am quite sure the receipt will not show my name or my company's name on it," he said emphatically when it was pointed out that Purnama Mutiara had paid the RM3,000 compound fine.

Mohd Said said Purnama Mutiara was the predecessor to Binyu Sof Enterprise in the freight forwarding business.

"I registered Purnama Mutiara as a forwarding agent while operating at the Malacca River Port.

"Purnama Mutiara was a holding company and it was used as a forwarding agent after the 1997 slump."

Mohd Said said he was forced to register the company as a forwarding agent as he had been declared a bankrupt.

"I stood guarantor for a friend and when he could not service his RM120,000 loan, I was declared a bankrupt.

"Of course I paid up a year later, if not I could not have contested in the elections."

Mohd Said said after the Kuala Linggi Port came into operation he formed Binyu Sof Enterprises and moved out of the Malacca River Port.

It also marked the end of Purnama Mutiara as a forwarding agent.

Mohd Said yesterday also clarified a remark by Attorney-General Tan Sri Gani Patail who had expressed surprise that Binyu Sof Enterprises had only been compounded although it was a repeat offender.

"The 14 offences committed were by the timber merchants and not my company. The timber did not belong to me.

"The 14 summonses were issued to the timber merchant."