

Apologise to Dr M, Zainuddin urges Rafidah

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SUNGAI PETANI: Deputy Information Minister Datuk Zainuddin Maidin said International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz should apologise openly to Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad for her "disconcerting" statements on the approved permits (AP).

Zainuddin, who is Merbok MP and Merbok Umno Information chief, said Rafidah should apologise to the former Prime Minister before the upcoming 56th Umno General Assembly.

He said the replies by Rafidah on Dr Mahathir's proposal that the names of AP holders be made public were rather hurtful.

"Although Rafidah has replied to Dr Mahathir on the issue, she should do it in a respectful manner as he was, after all, the former prime minister," he said.

"I feel sad when Rafidah launched an attack against Tun Mahathir by disclosing his son's name as an AP holder to import a Porsche," he said after

opening a new mini post office in Bukit Selambau near here yesterday.

He was commenting on whether the AP issue would be raised during the Umno assembly.

Rafidah had reportedly said that she had explained "the real situation" to Dr Mahathir, who is Proton adviser, regarding the issues he raised relating to the local motor vehicle industry.

Dr Mahathir had said that the large numbers of cars brought in under APs had led to unfair competition against

the national car Proton.

Zainuddin said even Dr Mahathir had at one time openly apologised to former Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman for using harsh words.

When contacted later, Zainuddin said: "Rafidah should make an open apology as while she had said it was not government policy to reveal APs (earlier), she had purportedly then revealed that Dr Mahathir's son was given an AP. This was unfair and I believe that many people were upset."