

Another VIP and son under AP scam probe

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PUTRAJAYA: Another two companies have been cloning Approved Permits for the import of cars.

Customs investigations revealed that one of them has cloned 400 APs and the other 70, according to a source.

The two companies and the one owned by Senator Datuk Muhammad Abdul Ghani were the main

players in the business of cloning APs, the source added.

Muhammad has pleaded innocence to allegations that his company had cloned more than 1,000 APs and sold them for between RM30,000 and RM40,000 each, saying his son who ran the company was responsible.

The source said one of the two companies was owned by a VIP.

"The modus operandi is more or less the same as the company belonging to the senator ... the father

owns the company and his son takes care of the day-to-day management," the source added.

Customs preventive director Mohamed Adnan Ariffin said yesterday investigations were under way against several companies which had evaded taxes by under-declaring the value of the cars they imported.

He declined to reveal the number or names of the companies, but a source said there were seven, including a few owned by "big

shots" who were major recipients of APs from the government.

One of these companies was said to have evaded more than RM50 million in taxes.

Adnan denied a news report that Customs had absolved Muhammad of any involvement in the cloning of APs by his company.

He said while there was no direct evidence against Muhammad, he could be held responsible as the owner of the company.