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Ownership of Merc transferred with just a photocopy of this:

Move was made without car owner's identity card, without any original documents and without his knowledge

By [Christopher Tan](#)

BUSINESSMAN Anthony Lim's car was transferred to another person without his knowledge, because he made a photocopy of the vehicle registration logcard.

The 52-year-old learnt that his eight-month-old Mercedes-Benz E240, worth about \$200,000, was technically no longer his on Wednesday, when he received a call from UOB Bank.

'The transfer was done without my identity card, without any original documents from me, without anything,' he said. 'How in the world could something like this happen?'

His nightmare began two weeks ago when he found a note pasted on the windscreen. It said that someone was keen to buy his car because of the number on its licence plate: SBZ 13C.

Phonetically, '13' sounds like 'sure alive' in Cantonese.

'I agreed to sell the car for \$190,000, and about a week ago, the dealer paid me a deposit of \$1,000 and asked me for a photocopy of the logcard, which he said was needed to secure a loan for the buyer.'

Mr Lim passed him the copy a week ago. That was the last time he saw or heard from the dealer.

On Wednesday, he was told of the transfer.

A check with the Land Transport Authority's (LTA's) motoring website confirmed that his car was no longer registered under his name and that a transfer had been made.

Mr Lim understands that his Merc - which he is still driving - had been transferred to a Mr Wong, but had no further details.

A 23-year veteran in the vehicle loans business, Mr Lim has lodged a police report and has asked his lawyer to write to the LTA, which authorised the transfer of ownership.

Lawyer **Vijai Parwani**, who has been representing clients in the car industry for nine years, told The Straits Times: 'This is the first time we've come across something like this.

'We've written to ask the LTA to void the transfer, and we're awaiting their response.'

The police said they were investigating the case.

Mr Lim suspects 'the whole thing is a scam'.

He understands that the car dealer - a Daniel Choong from used-car dealer Prestige Cars - had managed to secure a \$153,000 loan from Swift Leasing, an authorised UOB finance dealer, for the purported sale.

'I've not been able to track him down. He might even have left the country,' said Mr Lim.

The Straits Times was unable to reach the dealer or Prestige Cars despite several attempts.

A manager at Swift Leasing would say only that it had filed a police report.

In the last three years, the motor industry faced at least three major scams that involved dozens of vehicles and cost millions of dollars in losses. Typically, they involved forged documents that escape the notice of the authorities.

Each time, the LTA had said it would work with the relevant parties to avoid a repeat of such cases. The agency said yesterday that it was unable to comment on the latest case as it is still investigating.

Industry sources said the latest scam involves half a dozen other cars.

UOB declined to comment.