

MAHATHIR-MOTOR

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KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 6 (BERNAMA)—THE MALAYSIAN MOTOR VEHICLE ASSEMBLERS' ASSOCIATION HAS AGREED TO ESTABLISH A PANEL OF EXPERTS TO UNDERTAKE A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE EXISTING QUALITY CONTROL PROCEDURES IN LOCAL ASSEMBLY PLANTS.

THE INDEPENDENT PANEL WOULD APPRAISE THE PROCEDURES AND, IF FOUND INADEQUATE, WOULD MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMMAD SAID TONIGHT.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER, SAID HIS MINISTRY MIGHT ALSO REQUEST THE PANEL TO EXAMINE TECHNICAL DEFECTS IN LOCALLY ASSEMBLED VEHICLES.

IN A SPEECH READ BY DEPUTY TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER ENCIK ABDUL MANAN OTHMAN AT THE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER HERE, HE SAID THE MINISTRY WAS GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH THE QUALITY STANDARDS OF LOCALLY ASSEMBLED MOTOR VEHICLES.

HOWEVER, THERE WERE CERTAIN MAKES AND MODELS WHICH GAVE CAUSE FOR CONCERN, HE SAID AND URGED THE INDUSTRY TO RE-EXAMINE THE QUALITY STANDARDS IN THESE CASES. —
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DATUK DR. SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAD MET WITH RESISTANCE WHEN TRYING TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON PRICES OF COMPLETELY BUILT-UP (CBU) VEHICLES TO COMPARE WITH THOSE OF COMPLETELY KNOCKED-DOWN (CKD) PACKS OF THE SAME MODELS.

HE SAID SUCH INFORMATION WOULD NOT ONLY HELP THE MINISTRY IN APPRAISING JUSTIFICATION OR OTHERWISE OF A PRICE CHANGE BUT ALSO ASSIST ASSOCIATION MEMBERS IN SECURING A REASONABLE PRICE FROM THEIR PRINCIPAL SUPPLIERS.

THE MINISTRY HAD THEREFORE AMENDED THE PRICE SUBMISSION FORMAT MAKING IT MANDATORY FOR THE APPLICANT TO SUBMIT COMPARISON OF CBU AND CKD PRICES OF THE SAME MODEL.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE HAD RECEIVED REPORTS THAT SOME MOTOR VEHICLE DISTRIBUTORS DELIBERATELY UNDERTOOK ACTIVITIES TO UNDERMINE EFFORTS TO HELP BUMIPUTRAS IN THE MOTOR TRADE.

HE BELIEVED THERE WAS STILL ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT FOR BUMIPUTRA PARTICIPATION IN THE MOTOR TRADE AND URGED THE ASSOCIATION AND THE MALAYSIAN MOTOR TRADERS ASSOCIATION TO HELP PREPARE A MORE POSITIVE PROGRAMME TO PROMOTE EFFECTIVE BUMIPUTRA INVOLVEMENT IN THE INDUSTRY. —BERNAMA
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ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN DATUK ABDULLAH SAHAT CALLED ON THE APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES TO HOLD THOROUGH DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ASSOCIATION IN MATTERS AFFECTING THE MOTOR ASSEMBLY INDUSTRY WHEN DEALING WITH LEGISLATION LIKE THE RECENT-INTRODUCED RULINGS ON SAFETY SEAT BELTS AND TINTED GLASS.

HE SAID IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ADVANTAGEOUS FOR BOTH PARTIES INVOLVED IF THE ASSOCIATION HAD BEEN ASKED FOR ITS VIEWS FIRST.

DATUK ABDULLAH, HOWEVER, EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S UNDERSTANDING IN MATTERS AFFECTING THE MOTOR VEHICLE ASSEMBLY INDUSTRY.

DATUK ABDULLAH SAID THAT IN 1968 THERE WERE ONLY SIX ASSEMBLY PLANTS WHILE THERE WERE NOW 11, ASSEMBLING 49 MODELS OF 20 MAKES OF PASSENGER VEHICLES AND 85 MODELS OF 16 MAKES OF COMMERCIAL VEHICLES.

REFERRING TO ACCUSATIONS ON THE LACK OF QUALITY CONTROL SUPERVISION BY THE ASSEMBLERS, HE SAID THE MANUFACTURERS DID HAVE THEIR REPRESENTATIVES ATTACHED EITHER TO THE PLANTS OR MAKE REGULAR VISITS TO ENSURE THAT THE VEHICLES ASSEMBLED WERE NOT INFERIOR TO THOSE PRODUCED BY THE MANUFACTURERS THEMSELVES.

DATUK ABDULLAH STRESSED THAT A QUALITY CONTROL SYSTEM EXISTED IN ALL THE PLANTS AND RIGID CONTROL MEASURES WERE CARRIED OUT IN ALL CASES. — BERNAMA 2147/ZCM