

N121:
MAHATHIR-CAR

LABUAN, FEB. 17 (BERNAMA) — INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA MAY START THE +ASEAN CAR+ PROJECT WHEREBY MEMBER COUNTRIES PRODUCE COMPONENT PARTS AND ASSEMBLE A COMMON CAR, ACTING PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID HERE TODAY.

HE SAID PRESIDENT SUHARTO HAD AGREED THAT INDONESIA WORKED CLOSELY WITH MALAYSIA IN DEVELOPING THE CAR WHICH WOULD BE A BASIS FOR THE +ASEAN-CAR+ PROJECT.

MEMBER COUNTRIES WOULD PRODUCE DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE CAR WHILE THE ENGINE WOULD BE IMPORTED. — BERNAMA MORE 2047/LK

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID INDONESIA MIGHT ALSO SUPPLY LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG) AND COAL TO MALAYSIA IF TESTS ON THESE ITEMS PROVED VIABLE AS ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES.

HE SAID THAT MALAYSIA'S OWN LPG SUPPLIES WOULD NOT COME ON STREAM FOR SOME TIME, AND IF STUDIES BEING CONDUCTED NOW PROVED THAT PETROL COULD BE SUBSTITUTED FOR LPG, THEN MALAYSIA WOULD IMPORT THE GAS FROM INDONESIA.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ADDED THAT IF COAL COULD BE USED AS AN ENERGY SOURCE, MALAYSIA COULD ALSO STABILISE ITS CEMENT PRICE. — BERNAMA MORE 2049/LK

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HE SAID THE CEMENT INDUSTRY IN PARTICULAR WAS TRYING TO SWITCH FROM ITS PRESENT DEPENDANCE ON PETROL TO COAL.

ON THE ISSUE OF INDONESIAN WORKERS IN SABAH, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THEIR ENTRY WOULD NOW BE REGULATED.

HE LATER LEFT FOR KUALA LUMPUR. — BERNAMA 2050/LK