

# M'sian car will be joint venture initially, says PM

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DATUK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said initially Malaysia will not be able to make her own car here in one go.

In the initial stages, co-operation will be in the areas of design and preliminary testing of the car.

"There must be a starting point, that is co-operation between Hicom

(Heavy Industries Corporation of Malaysia) and a Japanese company," he said in reply to Mr Lee Lam Thye (DAP-Kuala Lumpur Bandar).

To a question by Mr Peter Chin Gan Onn (BN-Ipoh), who wanted to know how the government will finance all projects under Hicom, the Prime Minister said: "The Government does not have to dole out the money right now."

## Rocket engines

The Government had till 1990 and with the recovery of the economy by then, there would be money for the projects.

To a question by Encik Shamsuri Saleh (BN-Balik Pulau), Datuk Seri

Dr Mahathir said Hicom will hold 70 per cent of the equity in the 'Made-in-Malaysia' car project.

"However, the percentage is not fixed. Changes will be made if necessary," he said.

The Prime Minister also said Hicom is willing to co-operate with any party including any Asc-

an country in any project, if the returns are beneficial, in reply to Dr Koh Tsu Koon (BN-Tanjong).

To another question from Encik Mohamad Amin Haji Daud (BN-Pekan), the Prime Minister said it is also the government's intention to build aeroplane and rocket engines.

"But to begin all this, there must be a starting point," he said.

To the original question from Mr Lee Lam Thye, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said projects undertaken by Hicom are not separate from the private sector.

"Hicom projects will accelerate growth of the industrial sector in the country," he said.

The Prime Minister added that Hicom is implementing two projects presently, the cement factory in Pulau Langkawi and the steel factory in Trengganu.

To a supplementary question from Haji Hashim Endut (BN-Ulu Muda), Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the cement factory in Pulau

Langkawi will help ensure a constant supply of cement in the country.