

KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 31 (BERNAMA) -- THE QUALITY OF THE MADE-IN-MALAYSIA CARS, WHICH WILL BE IN PRODUCTION SOON, WILL BE ON PAR WITH THAT OF POPULAR JAPANESE MODELS, THE DEWAN NEGARA WAS TOLD TODAY.

PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD ASSURED THE DEWAN THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PROVIDE ALL THE NECESSARY HELP AND INCENTIVES TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE.

REPLYING TO SENATOR DATUK YAP PENG, HE SAID THE PROJECT WAS A VIABLE ONE AND THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONFIDENT AHT IT WOULD SUCCEED.

HE SAID THE PARTNERS IN THE JOINT-VENTURE WERE FIRMS OF INTERNATIONAL STANDING WHICH HAD VAST EXPERIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE INDUSTRY.

THE PROPOSED FACTORY WOULD BE ABLE TO UNDERTAKE MASS PRODUCTION WHICH COULD BE ABSORBED BY THE DOMESTIC MARKET.

TO A QUESTION FROM SENATOR DATUK HAJI MOHAMAD DIN JAAFAR, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE FACTORY WOULD BE ABLE TO EMPLOY BETWEEN 2,000 AND 2,500 WORKERS. -- MORE 1620/MB

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REPLYING TO SENATOR KEE YONG YEE, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE MALAYSIA INCORPORATED CONCEPT WAS BASED ON CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS.

THE CONCEPT SHOULD BE FULLY UNDERSTOOD TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDING AND MISCONCEPTION THAT COULD JEOPARDISE ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

HE SAID FOR THE NATION TO PROGRESS WELL THERE SHOULD BE CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS.

AS SUCH IT WAS NECESSARY FOR THE PUBLIC SECTOR TO GIVE ALL THE NECESSARY HELP AND COOPERATION TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO PROGRESS FURTHER.

HE SAID THE PROGRESS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR WOULD BENEFIT THE NATION.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE NATION'S PROGRESS AS A RESULT OF CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO SECTORS WOULD CONTRIBUTE GREATLY TOWARDS THE GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVE TO MAKE MALAYSIA A STRONG AND RESPECTED COUNTRY THAT COULD COMPETE WITH DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. -- BERNAMA 1638/MB