

P.M.: Car project is viable

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad told the Dewan Negara the Malaysian car project was a viable one, adding that the Government's confidence was based on several factors.

He told Senator Datuk Yap Peng that among the factors which contributed to this confidence and the Government's participation in the project were:

- The factory to be set up for the project would have a capacity large enough to make production economical;

- The partners in the project were internationally well-known companies and had a high level

of expertise in the automobile industry, with which engineering costs could be minimised; and,

- The local market could absorb the number of cars which would be produced.

Robots

The Malaysian car would be able to compete with other popular Japanese makes in the country.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the Government would ensure its success by giving the necessary aid and encouragement.

To a supplementary question by Senator Datuk Mohamad bin Jaafar, the Prime Minister said between 2,000 and 2,500 people would be involved

in the project.

The House burst into laughter when Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said: "I have yet to count the number of robots that will be involved in assembling parts for the Malaysian car."

Datuk Mohamad wanted to know how many robots would be imported from Japan for the project.

The Prime Minister told Senator Kee Yong Yee the Malaysia Incorporated concept was based on close co-operation between the public and private sectors.

The concept should be fully understood to avoid misinterpretation and misconception, which could jeopardise its implementation.

Compete

He said for the nation to progress there should be close co-operation between the public and private sectors.

As such, it was necessary for the public sector to give all the necessary help and co-operation 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 co-operation between the two sectors would contribute greatly towards the Government's objective of making Malaysia a strong and respected country that could compete with developed countries.