

SAGA: A DRIVE WELL PROVEN

SHAH ALAM, JULY 9 (BERNAMA ES) -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR )  
MOHAMAD TODAY LAUNCHED THE PROTON SAGA AND DECLARED THAT THE NATIONAL  
CAR PROJECT PROVED THE CAPABILITY OF MALAYSIA AND ITS PEOPLE.

+ DETERMINED EFFORTS, WHOLEHEARTED DEDICATION AND THE  
WILLINGNESS TO FACE UP TO CHALLENGES WILL SURELY HELP US ACHIEVE OUR  
OBJECTIVES,+ SAID THE PRIME MINISTER WHO, AT THE SAME FUNCTION, ALSO  
DECLARED OPEN THE \$550 MILLION PERUSAHAAN OTOMOBIL NASIONAL (PROTON)  
PLANT HERE.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO GO AHEAD WITH THE HEAVY  
INDUSTRY PROGRAMME WAS TO EXTEND AND STRENGTHEN THE NATIONAL  
INDUSTRIAL BASE IN ITS EFFORTS TO BECOME A INDUSTRIALISED NATION.

HE ADDED MALAYSIA WOULD EVENTUALLY SUCCEED IN ITS PROGRAMMES IF  
THE PEOPLE WERE WILLING TO WORK HARD, BE DISCIPLINED AND DEDICATED  
AND MANAGE EFFICIENTLY.

+TODAY, OUR COUNTRY MOVES ONE STEP FURTHER TOWARDS INDUSTRIAL  
PROGRESS. THE NATIONAL CAR FACTORY AND THE PRODUCTION OF THE PROTON  
SAGA ARE PROOF OF OUR WILLINGNESS TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES OF  
NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE SUCCESS OF THE NATIONAL CAR  
PROJECT WOULD GIVE THE NATION'S ECONOMY +A GREAT PUSH.+

HE SAID THE PROJECT WILL ALSO BE THE CATALYST FOR THE GROWTH  
AND DEVELOPMENT OF SUPPORT INDUSTRIES SUCH AS THOSE RELATING TO  
METAL, RUBBER AND PLASTICS.

THROUGH THE NATIONAL CAR PROJECT, THE COMPONENTS MANUFACTURING  
INDUSTRY COULD HELP BOOST THE COUNTRY'S ENGINEERING CAPABILITY AND  
ABSORPTION OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY, HE ADDED.

FURTHERMORE, THE COMPONENTS MANUFACTURING SECTOR WOULD GENERATE  
MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVESTMENT AND EMPLOYMENT.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MANUFACTURERS SHOULD IMPROVE THE  
QUALITY OF CAR COMPONENTS SO THAT THEY COULD CATER FOR THE OVERSEAS  
MARKET AS WELL.

EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO PROMOTE PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT SO TO  
ENSURE THE QUALITY OF GOODS PRODUCED BY MALAYSIANS, HE SAID.

EARLIER, PROTON CHAIRMAN TAN SRI JAMIL JAN SAID THE BIRTH OF  
PROTON SAGA REFLECTED MALAYSIA'S ASPIRATION, AMBITION AND  
PERSEVERANCE TO BECOME AN INDUSTRIALISED NATION.

+FROM THIS DAY, WE ARE ONE OF THE COUNTRIES ABLE TO PRODUCE AND  
MANUFACTURE ITS OWN PASSENGER CARS,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THE KEY TO PROTON'S FUTURE LIES IN ITS  
INVOLVEMENT IN THE FIELD OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (R AND D) IN  
VIEW OF THE RAPID TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND KEEN COMPETITION IN  
THE CAR INDUSTRY.

HE SAID ALL DEVELOPMENT IN STYLING, DESIGN, APPLICATION AND  
USAGE OF NEW MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY IS RESEARCHED IN THE R AND D  
DEPARTMENT. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN PROTON'S INTENTION TO OFFER THE  
LATEST DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY TO ALL ITS BUYERS, HE ADDED.

TAN SRI JAMIL ASSURED POTENTIAL BUYERS THAT THE COMPANY WOULD  
SPARE NO EFFORTS TO MEET THEIR DEMAND.

+THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PEOPLE IN PROTON SAGA IS WELL  
DEMONSTRATED IN THE FACT THAT MANY BOOKED THE CAR WITHOUT EVEN  
KNOWING THE PRICE AND ITS LOOKS. IT HAS INSPIRED US GREATLY,+ HE  
SAID.

+WE HOPE THAT FROM TODAY ONWARDS, PROTON WILL EARN GREATER  
CONFIDENCE AND SUPPORT FROM THE PEOPLE.+ --BERNAMA ES