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MAHATHIR-SAGA
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KUCHING, AUG 21 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD INDICATED TODAY THAT HE MAY ANNOUNCE THE PRICES OF THE PROTON SAGA CARS BEFORE HE RETURNS TO KUALA LUMPUR ON SATURDAY.

+I MAY DO SO BEFORE RETURNING,+ THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD REPORTERS AFTER LAUNCHING THE ASSEMBLING OF PACIFIC TRUCKS BY KUMPULAN INCHCAPE. THE TRUCKS ARE ASSEMBLED AT THE SARAWAK MOTOR INDUSTRY PLANT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WOULD BE HAPPY IF HE COULD ANNOUNCE THE PRICES NOW BUT HE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED DETAILS AND THE PROPOSALS ON THE PRICES FROM PERUSAHAAN OTOMOBIL NASIONAL (PROTON).

YESTERDAY, PROTON CHAIRMAN TAN SRI JAMIL JAN WAS QUOTED AS SAYING IN KUALA LUMPUR THAT THE PRICES OF THE PROTON CARS WILL BE ANNOUNCED BY THE PRIME MINISTER NOT LATER THAN SEPT 1.

IN HIS SPEECH AT THE LAUNCHING, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE NATION IN THE CAR MAKING INDUSTRY WAS TO BUILD UP EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE IN THE ENGINEERING AND METAL INDUSTRIES. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-SAGA 2 KUCHING

HE SAID THE PROTON SAGA PROJECT WAS THE STARTING POINT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO EXPAND INTO RELATED INDUSTRIES.

+I HAD BEEN ASKED WHY MALAYSIA IS PRODUCING ITS OWN CARS WHEN WE WOULD FACE PROBLEMS AS THE MARKET HAS NOT BEEN DETERMINED.

+FOR ME, THE ANSWER IS THAT WE HAVE THE SAME OBJECTIVE AS OTHER CAR PRODUCING COUNTRIES.+

HE SAID THAT WHILE INITIALLY THE COUNTRY WOULD FACE PROBLEMS BY BEING INVOLVED IN THE CAR MAKING INDUSTRY AS A RESULT OF THE MARKET'S NOT BEING DETERMINED, IN THE LONG RUN THE COUNTRY WOULD BENEFIT, ESPECIALLY IN TERMS OF KNOWHOW AND TECHNICAL SKILLS IN AUTOMOBILE ENGINEERING.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGED EFFORTS TO UPGRADE THE INDUSTRIES IN THE COUNTRY. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-SAGA 3 KUCHING

HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT MALAYSIA'S OBJECTIVES WOULD BE ACHIEVED IF EFFORTS TO EXPAND THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR WERE CARRIED OUT SYSTEMATICALLY AND SMOOTHLY.

EXPERIENCE, KNOWHOW AND SKILLS ACQUIRED THROUGH INVOLVEMENT IN THE INDUSTRIES WOULD MOTIVATE PARTICIPATION IN MORE VENTURES AND THIS WOULD BENEFIT THE NATION, HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA
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