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MAHATHIR-SAGA  
BM

ALOR SETAR, AUG 27 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY DESCRIBED THE PRICE OF THE PROTON SAGA AS +CHEAP, REASONABLE AND ENCOURAGING.+

WHEN APPROACHED BY REPORTERS AFTER ADDRESSING A HARI RAYA HAJI GATHERING AT BUKIT RAYA DALAN, 30 KM FROM HERE, HE SAID HE HAD NO IDEA HOW THE NATIONAL CAR WOULD BE PRICED.

BUT WHEN THE NEWSMEN INFORMED HIM THAT HICOM CHAIRMAN TAN SRI JAMIL JAN HAD ANNOUNCED THE PRICES, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS VISIBLY DELIGHTED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID 7,600 UNITS OF THE SAGA WOULD BE PRODUCED BY THE END OF THE YEAR AND THAT PRODUCTION WAS PROJECTED TO REACH 40,000 NEXT YEAR.

TO BUYERS WHO MIGHT HAVE TO WAIT FOR SOME TIME BEFORE THEY COULD TAKE DELIVERY OF THE CAR, HE ADVISED THEM TO BE PATIENT.

HE ALSO SAID HE DID NOT KNOW IF THE PROTON SAGA WOULD BE EXHIBITED OVERSEAS. -- MORE  
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#### MAHATHIR-SAGA 2 ALOR SETAR

HOWEVER, HE SAID, THE CAR MIGHT BE DISPLAYED LOCALLY TO POPULARISE IT AMONG MALAYSIANS.

+BUT THIS WILL DEPEND ON THE MANAGEMENT OF HICOM. IT IS UP TO THEM TO DECIDE WHAT IS BEST IN MARKETING THE CAR. I DON'T KNOW, I AM NOT THE MANAGER OF EON OR HICOM,+ HE ADDED.

ON A CALL BY LABUAN BERJAYA DIVISIONAL HEAD SENATOR DATUK HAJI MOHAMED DIN JAFFAR THAT UMNO PUT OFF ITS PLANS TO EXPAND TO THE ISLAND UNTIL AFTER THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY REPORT.

+I CANNOT MAKE ANY COMMENT SOLELY ON THE STRENGTH OF NEWSPAPER REPORTS,+ HE SAID.

THE SENATOR WAS REPORTED TO HAVE ASKED UMNO TO SHELVE ITS PLANS ON THE ARGUMENT THAT ANY PRIOR MOVE COULD FURTHER SPLIT MALAY UNITY ON THE ISLAND

+ANTI-FEDERAL SENTIMENTS ARE STILL STRONG ON THE ISLAND AND UMNO'S PRESENCE IN LABUAN WILL FURTHER SPLIT MALAY AND MUSLIM UNITY, NOW ALREADY DIVIDED BETWEEN USNO AND BERJAYA,+ HE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING. -- BERNAMA  
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