

# Proton's Malaysian managers unable to deliver: PM

12 OCT 1988

LOCAL managers are expected to learn and take over from the three senior Japanese management executives invited to join Proton for a tentative period of two years, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said the Mitsubishi Motors Corporation (MMC) and Mitsubishi Corporation of Japan (MC) had to play a bigger role in the national car project because the Malaysians were unable to achieve the desired results.

"They came in with the understanding that they would prepare the locals to take over once they are ready to do so," he added.

Replying Dr Tan Seng Giaw (DAP-Kepong), Dr Mahathir said to date 17 MMC/MC executives are under Proton's payroll compared with 125 locals.

The Government, however, had no plans to invite Japanese executives to help in managing other Hicom projects, Dr Mahathir said in response to a supplementary question from Encik Zubir Embong (BN-Kuala Terengganu).

## Superiority

He said there was nothing wrong with the Proton arrangement since MMC/MC owned 30 per cent of the project.

"We should not be embarrassed to learn from those who have proven to be managers *par excellence*," the Prime Minister said.

Dr Mahathir pointed out that the Japanese had impressed with their superiority in management.

"Malayawata was a profitable venture under Japanese management. But within two years after the local takeover in 1976, the company experienced a \$100 million loss."

Dr Mahathir also said there was no task force created to review Proton's operations.

"But there's the management committee which allows the company's executives to meet regularly and monitor their achievements."