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MAHATHIR-PROTON  
BM

SHAH ALAM, DEC 2 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS SUGGESTED THAT PERUSAHAAN OTOMOBIL NASIONAL (PROTON) MAKE PLANS TO TURN ITS CAR INTO THE BEST AND MOST POPULAR IN THE WORLD.

+IT IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE PROTON SAGA TO BE THE WORLD NO 1 CAR,+ HE SAID WHEN ADDRESSING SOME 1,800 WORKERS AT THE PROTON PLANT HERE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE OBJECTIVE COULD BE REALISED IF THE ENTIRE PROTON STAFF AND MANAGEMENT WORKED HARD AND STROVE TO PRODUCE QUALITY WORK.

HE SAID ALTHOUGH PROTON WAS A NEWCOMER TO THE CAR INDUSTRY? ITS PRODUCTS HAD RECEIVED INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS SPEAKING BEFORE OFFICIATING AT THE ROLL-OUT OF THE 150,000TH PROTON CAR FOR MALAYSIA AND 10,000TH CAR FOR EXPORT TO THE UNITED KINGDOM. -- MORE

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HE SAID THAT WHEN THE GOVERNMENT VOICED ITS PLANS FOR MALAYSIA TO PRODUCE ITS OWN CAR, THERE WERE THOSE WHO THOUGHT THE PROJECT WAS AN IMPOSSIBILITY. +MANY SAID IT WAS A CRAZY PROJECT,+ HE ADDED,

HE SAID WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS IMPOSSIBLE WAS NOW REALITY AND FURTHERMORE9 ON PAR WITH OTHER MAKES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ADVISED PROTON STAFF TO DISCARD ANY SHYNESS OR OR FEAR THEY HAD IN SEEKING KNOWLEDGE FROM FOREIGNERS.

INSTEAD, THEY SHOULD BE WILLING TO LEARN FROM OTHERS TO ACQUIRE CERTAIN SKILLS SO THAT THEY COULD BE SELF-RELIANT IN FUTURE.

HE ALSO URGED THEM TO INCULCATE QUALITY WORK AS PART OF THEIR SERVICE IN KEEPING WITH THE EXEMPLARY WORK CULTURE MOVEMENT LAUNCHED ON MONDAY. -- MORE

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ON MILESTONES NOTCHED BY PROTON, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR EXPRESSED PRIDE WITH THE SUCCESS CHARTED BY THE NATIONAL CAR IN PENETRATING THE FOREIGN MARKET AND HOLDING A MAJOR STAKE IN THE LOCAL MARKET.

PRODUCTION OF UNITS FOR EXPORT TO THE UNITED KINGDOM? FOR EXAMPLE, HAS DOUBLED THIS YEAR FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S PROJECTION OF 5,000 UNITS. -- BERNAMA

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