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Mahathir-Chile

JOINT VENTURE TO ASSEMBLE PROTON IN CHILE A POSSIBILITY

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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 13 (Bernama) ¹⁹² Malaysia may consider a joint venture, to assemble the Proton Saga car in Chile or use materials from that country for manufacture of the national car, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir-Mohamad said today.

"The cars could be exported from Chile to several countries which had agreements on avoidance of double taxation with Chile, he told reporters after seeing off, President Patricio Aylwin Azocar of Chile, at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Subang.

Replying to reporters' questions on the possibility of Malaysia exporting the Proton Saga to Chile, he said several matters had to be taken into consideration.

+Firstly, they used left-hand drive vehicles while we produce right-hand drive vehicles. Therefore, we have to manufacture left-hand drive vehicles.

+Secondly, we must understand their system of taxation so that our car can be imported into Chile at a reasonable price, he said. -- more

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On investments in Chile, he said Malaysia had started investing in areas in which it had the expertise, such as mining.

Chile was a leading producer of copper and had many sites where alluvial gold was produced, he said.

He said Malaysia, which had wide experience in the production of tin, might establish joint venture with Chile in the production of gold.

Dr Mahathir said the visit of President Aylwin would forge closer bilateral diplomatic and trade relations.

+Besides, Asean will also be informed of the need to have discussions and meetings with the Rio Group, a grouping of Latin American countries, he said. -- more

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Dr Mahathir said the visit by President Aylwin and his entourage enabled them to understand the vast business opportunities in Malaysia which they had been unaware of.

He said President Aylwin was so impressed by the opportunities and facilities in Malaysia that he directed Chilean trade representatives to visit Malaysia when they toured this region.

Chilean businessmen had concentrated only on Taiwan, Hong Kong and Japan whenever they visited the East, he added. -- Bernama

13/11/14-57MST