

PM: Proton to try and increase output

KUALA LUMPUR: Proton will try to increase its production capacity to meet the unprecedented demand for the Wira, said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Prime Minister said yesterday the assembly plant's production capacity was 120,000 units annually.

"With some effort, Proton can increase its capacity to 150,000 units," he told reporters after opening a seminar on *Islam and*

Justice at Bank Negara.

He was commenting on reports that bookings for the Wira had to be suspended at several branches in Kuala Lumpur, Petaling Jaya, Johor Baru and Ipoh as they had exceeded their monthly allocations.

Dr Mahathir also described as "a narrow view" the statement by Otis Elevator Company's managing director Andrea Vecchiotti that the firm invested in Penang

because the state was "more Chinese."

"It is their (Otis') right to say what they want. If they want more Chinese, then they should go to China where there are plenty of Chinese," he said of the statement which was reported by the *Economist*.

Dr Mahathir added that other foreign investors had never asked that their investment areas should be Chinese-dominant.

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