

"PERODUA KANCIL" SUITABLE FOR NEW DRIVERS OR AS SECOND CAR

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 27 (Bernama) -- Perodua Kancil, the second national car, should be seen as a suitable car for new drivers or as a second car, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said the 660 c.c "Kancil" would be affordable and economical to drive.

The second national car would serve the domestic market and if there was potential for export, it would be a bonus factor, he told newsmen after launching the name of the second car maker and the car here.

Perusahaan Otomobil Kedua Sdn Bhd (Perodua), the holding company for the second national car, will have two wholly-owned subsidiaries.

They are Perodua Manufacturing Sdn Bhd and Perodua Sales Sdn Bhd.

He reiterated that the "Kancil" would not pose as competition for the Proton car market as the cars catered for different markets.

Perodua's six shareholders are UMW Corporation Sdn Bhd (38 percent equity), Daihatsu Motor Co. Ltd of Japan and Med-Bumikar Mara Sdn Bhd (20 percent each), PNB Equity Resource Corp (10 percent), Mitsui & Co. Ltd (seven percent) and Daihatsu (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd (the remaining five percent).

Perodua will have an initial authorised capital of RM500 million and paid-up capital of RM140 million.

Perodua Managing Director Encik Ho Tet Kheong later told a press conference that the Kancil would have an initial local content of 50 percent which would be increased to 70 percent "within a few years".

He said some 50 vendors were participating in the local content programme, most of whom were Proton parts suppliers.

Dealers would be appointed soon, he said, adding that there would be enough dealers to cover Malaysia.

He described the "Kancil" as being environmentally-friendly cars since they had small engine capacity.

The "Kancil" logo depicts a leaping mousedeer against a green background, symbolising car being a compact car, easy to manoeuvre and environment-friendly.

-- Bernama