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AUTOMOTIVE TOWNSHIP, PROTON CITY DEVELOPMENT IN BEHRANG ON SCHEDULE

SHAH ALAM, Sept 5 (Bernama) -- Proton City, Malaysia's own automotive township in Behrang near Tanjung Malim, Perak, similar to "Toyota City," in Japan, is progressing on schedule.

Perusahaan Otomobil Nasional Bhd (Proton) vice chairman for strategy and operations Tengku Mahaleel Tengku Ariff said today: "We are at the engineering design stage now."

Speaking to reporters after the company's 13th Annual General Meeting and Extraordinary General Meeting here, he said work would begin when the tenders were closed and the contractors awarded the contract.

"Bidding is on now; this week and next week. They are now meeting with our engineers and obtaining the necessary clarification to prepare the bidding documents," he added.

Tengku Mahaleel said companies from Japan and Europe (German, French and British firms) along with local companies have shown keen interest in the project.

He said the only complication in the setting up of a car plant was the engineering decisions like how much automated machines were needed.

"Putting a production line is not difficult. But deciding what to put in that line will be difficult," he added.

Tengku Mahaleel and his team have visited Japanese and South Korean car manufacturing plants and studied how they do things and he said: "We have an idea how the Europeans plants work."

On March 23, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad officiated the ground breaking ceremony to launch development of Proton City, a modern integrated automotive township in Behrang.

Covering an area of more than 1,618 hectares when completed, Proton City will boast a full range of facilities.

Besides an automotive production plant, vendor support factories and a research and development centre, the township will feature residential areas, commercial centres, recreational parks, educational institutions and hotels. -- BERNAMA

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