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Mahathir-LIMOS

DR MAHATHIR HAPPY WITH RESPONSE TO LIMOS '96

LANGKAWI, Dec 1 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is happy with the response of the automobile industry towards this year's Langkawi International Motor Show (LIMOS '96).

He believes LIMOS will gain international fame too like the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA).

"LIMA has become a renowned air show ... I'm confident, people from neighbouring countries will also come to see LIMOS," he told a news conference after opening the second annual show from Nov 30 to Dec 8, here today.

More than 80 automobile companies are taking part in the show organised by Le Proton Exhibitions and Services Sdn Bhd.

He said the involvement of several local companies showed that the local industry had attained encouraging progress.

"Show like LIMOS is giving an opportunity to them to introduce their products," he said.

To a question, he said the motor show could also be held elsewhere as long as the date was not too close with that of another exhibition.

"To me, the motor show in Kuala Lumpur is slightly different compared to the one here. I feel, there is nothing wrong of holding one here in Langkawi and another in Kuala Lumpur," he said.

After opening the LIMOS '96, Dr Mahathir also took a test drive of the Malaysian design sports car, Delfino IQ 140.

Asked on what he thought of the car, he said it is a good car with super handling.

Asked whether the production of the car would complement that of Lotus Elise to be produced by Proton, Dr Mahathir said both models would cater for different markets.

"But what is clear many are now venturing into car production using composite materials and fibre glass," he said.

On the Lotus Elise, he said there was the possibility that it would be manufactured here for East Asia market.

Dr Mahathir said the transfer of technology in the automobile industry had expedite the growth of Malaysia's car industry starting with the involvement of Mitsubishi Motor Corporation with Proton.

"Proton has achieved outstanding success. As the result of the cooperation, we have a big car manufacturing industry, capable of buying a big company like Lotus (Lotus Group International Ltd)," he said. --

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