

28 SEP 1996

Trucks

LOCALLY BUILT TRUCKS AND BUSES TO ROLL OUT NEXT YEAR

KUANTAN, Sept 28 (Bernama) -- The first locally made trucks and buses will roll out the assembly line in September next year with a initial production of about 10,000 units a year.

Automotive Manufacturers Malaysia (AMM) Sdn Bhd Group Operations director Haji Ismayudin Abdul Manan said the production would be increased in stages till 20,000 units a year.

Initially, about 70 per cent of the production would be buses, he told reporters after hosting a reception to a 19-member delegation from the North-China Industry Corporation led by its vice-president Ma Zhi Geng. Menteri Besar Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob was also present.

DRB-Hicom Group managing director Datuk Mohd Saleh Sulong had said in July that Malaysia Truck and Bus Sdn Bhd would spend about RM120 million in capital expenditure for the truck and bus production plant.

Hicom and Diversified Resources Bhd had 40 per cent stake each while Isuzu Motor Ltd holds 20 per cent equity in the Malaysia Truck and Bus Sdn Bhd.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the project was signed in Japan last June witnessed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Ismayudin said the trucks of between one and seven tonnes would be produced in the AMM production plant in Peramu Jaya, near Pekan.

Besides sold locally, the vehicles would be exported including to Asean countries, he said, adding that some countries had shown interest to buy the trucks.

Asked on the model of the trucks, he said it depended on the market demand.

On the visit by North-China Industry Corporation delegation, he said they were reciprocating the one made by Dr Mahathir to Beijing earlier.

It was also aimed at establishing cooperation between the corporation and automobile companies in Malaysia, he added. -- BERNAMA

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