

31 AUG 1996  
Merdeka-Motorcycles  
NATIONAL MOTORCYCLE ON PARADE

KOTA KINABALU, Aug 31 (Bernama) -- The first made-in-Malaysia motorcycle made its maiden public appearance when 70 units joined in the 39th National Day parade at the Likas Sports Complex here today.

The Motosikal dan Enjin Nasional Sdn Bhd (Modenas) members were greeted with loud applause as they made their entrance in the red, blue and green 110cc motorcycles.

At 9.17am, the Modenas contingent, led by its chief executive Haji Rashid Din, rode past the stage for dignitaries who include Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The motorcycles, produced at the company's factory in the Gurun Heavy Industries Zone near Alor Setar in Kedah, are expected to enter the market soon. Its price has not been announced yet but Modenas expects it to be sold at RM4,000 each.

Modenas is a RM300 million joint venture between Diversified Resources Bhd (DRB), Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd, Nissho-Iwai Corporation and Khazanah Holding.

Modenas service manager Samad Karim said the national motorcycle was expected to be launched by Dr Mahathir on Oct 3 in Gurun.

At the launching, the Prime Minister is scheduled to announce the name for the motorcycle.

The four-stroke engine motorcycle contains 70 percent local content but this will be increased to 100 percent in three years' time.

For most people among the crowd, the appearance of the national motorcycle was a pleasant surprise. -- BERNAMA

TM YBY