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NEW PROTON VARIANTS TO COME WITH 1.3 AND 1.6 LITRE ENGINE

LANGKAWI, July 30 (Bernama) -- The new "no frills" Proton variants will have 1.3- and 1.6-litre engines, Hicom Holdings Bhd president Tan Sri Yahaya Ahmad said today.

He added: "My boys are being stretched to come out with the models. It will be unfair for me to say when it will roll out but I am giving my boys impossible deadlines.

"Booking for the variants is not open since the government has not approved the price yet."

Yahaya, who is attending the Second Langkawi International Dialogue (LID), said the Proton variants would have 90 percent local content compared with 75 percent in existing models.

The variants would have factory fitted air-con units.

Proton was working towards reducing the waiting time for the national car, he said. "For instance, for now, there is no waiting period for Perdana and Wira 1.8 litre series."

The waiting period for the Satria 1.3 was long, hence, Proton was attempting to reduce the waiting period.

On the development of the national motorcycle at its plant in Gurun, Kedah, he said, the official opening would be on Oct. 3.

Production would be for export to markets which include East Asia, Latin America and the African countries.

The national motorcycle project is the brainchild of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. The project is being undertaken together with Kawasaki Heavy Industries of Japan. -- BERNAMA

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