

03 OCT 1996

PM TO LAUNCH MSIA'S FIRST MOTORCYCLE PLANT

GURUN, Oct 3 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad will today launch Malaysia's first motorcycle and engine facility here, marking another milestone in the country's drive towards achieving industrialisation status by the year 2020.

The more than RM300 million plant, is owned by Motosikal dan Enjin Nasional Sdn Bhd's (Modenas), which is manufacturing the national motorcycle.

Modenas, is a joint venture between Diversified Resources Bhd (DRB) (with a 55 percent stake), Khazanah Nasional Bhd (15 percent) along with Japan's Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd (19 percent) and Nissho-Iwai Corporation (11 percent)

The Modenas plant would initially produce 100,000 units of the 110 cc four-stroke sporty two-wheeler motorcycles in its first year of operation.

It was completed on March 1996 and the first bike rolled out on May 14 this year.

The motorcycles, to be priced at about RM4,000 per unit, would be sold by Modenas's marketing arm, Edaran Modenas Sdn Bhd (EMOS).

The name of the national motorcycle is still a closely-guarded secret and would be known at the launch later this morning. -- BERNAMA

AD MR