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AMM to make more than 10,000 trucks, buses yearly

AUTOMOTIVE Manufacturers (M) Sdn Bhd, a member of Diversified Resources Berhad-Hicom Group, has set a target of producing between 10,000 and 20,000 units of trucks and buses every year.

AMM group operations director Datuk Ismayuddin Abdul Manan said the production of the vehicles at AMM's RM250 million production plant in Pekan, about 70km from Kuantan, would most likely take off in October.

Ismayuddin said initially about 10,000 units would be produced.

"Gradually, the number will be increased to 20,000 a year. We anticipate good response from buyers."

He said the company was in the final stage of preparing the equipment and machinery for the production process.

"Once all these have been put into place, the pilot project will start and we hope this can be carried out in May," he told reporters after a visit by members of the Press to AMM on Thursday.

Ismayuddin added that only a few units of trucks and buses would be produced in the pilot project.

He also said the company was in the process of training more skilled workers to ensure sufficient workforce and that there were no hiccups to the production which could further boost the country's image in the world of transportation.

Initially between 400 and 500 people will be employed at the plant.

The project, a joint venture by three companies - Hicom Holdings Bhd, Diversified Resources Bhd and Isuzu Motors Ltd of Japan - will be carried out on a 72ha site.

The partners signed a memorandum of understanding in Japan last year to form Malaysian Truck and Bus Sdn Bhd to oversee the production of the trucks.

DRB and Hicom will hold 40 per cent each in Malaysian Truck and Bus while Isuzu Motors holds 20 per cent.

AMM holds the franchise to assemble and distribute Isuzu passenger cars and pick-ups in Malaysia, and Isuzu trucks and buses in the peninsula.

Between 70 and 80 per cent of production would concentrate on the production of buses while the rest would be on trucks.

As for the name and logo Ismayuddin said it would be announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who is expected to do the launching.

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