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Dr M to visit Japan July 17

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will be making a six-day working visit to Japan beginning July 17.

This will be his third trip to Japan, the first of which was in January to promote the Multimedia Super Corridor and followed by an official visit in March.

Wisma Putra, in a statement issued in Kuala Lumpur, said among the highlights of the working trip will be Dr Mahathir's visit of the Mitsuoka Motors Co Ltd's car manufacturing plant.

He is expected to view the production line of Mitsuoka's sports car, Zero 1. Zero 1 is the sports car which earned the company its licence as Japan's newest carmaker.

Its plant in the Toyama Prefecture in western Japan produces 99 units of the Zero 1 a year. The car, which looks like a racing car, was developed almost entirely by Mitsuoka's young research and development staff, although it uses an engine and transmission supplied by Mazda, a carmaker with widely-acclaimed engineering technology.

Besides the Mitsuoka plant, Dr Mahathir is also scheduled to visit the Kurobe Kyokoku Railways Co Inc in Toyama City and the Hayashibara Biochemical Laboratories Inc in Kibi Plateau City.

Dr Mahathir is also expected to visit the Okayama Prefecture and meet its Governor Masahiro Ishii and Mr Katsumi Sasaki, the chairman of Okayama Keizai Doyukai and president of Sanyo Shimbun.

Dr Mahathir is also expected to participate in a dialogue with selected Japanese business, academic and political leaders, followed by a reception in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Okayama Keizai Doyukai.

He will also attend a dinner hosted by Nippon Telephone and Telegraph president Jun-ichiro Miyazu.

He will end the visit with a meeting with Nakamichi Corp president, Mr Niro Nakamichi, on July 22.

Dr Mahathir will return to Kuala Lumpur on July 22, after a two-month vacation abroad.

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