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Hicom Perkasa trucks also meant for overseas markets

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MALAYSIA'S very own locally-designed and manufactured Hicom Perkasa trucks are made according to stringent international standards including being fitted with environmentally friendly engines to pave the way for export markets.

"The national truck is not just for the local market but is also for export, especially to the developing countries," DRB-Hicom chairman Datuk Mohd Saleh Sulong said in Kuala Lumpur.

The trucks, designed and manufactured by Malaysian Truck and Bus Sdn Bhd, a member of the DRB-Hicom group, were launched and officially named by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday.

Also present at the launch were Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat, Pahang Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohd Khalil Yaakob and Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu.

Hicom Perkasa, which comes in four models - the MTB 140, MTB 150t, MTB 150dx and MTB 170 (solid waste truck) -, is fitted with environmentally friendly engines conforming to European standards.

The standard accessories include air conditioner, radio cassette, immobiliser, fire extinguisher, safety triangle, first aid kit and rubber mats.

Mohd Saleh said the trucks currently have about 50 per cent local content and this would be increased to 80 per cent in the next five years.

The trucks are manufactured at a 24.96ha plant in Peramu Jaya, Pekan in Pahang, which has a capacity to produce 24,000 units a year or 2,000 units a month.

The production volume would be increased to 100,000 units in five years.

The MTB 140 which has a 2,771cc engine capacity is retailed at RM44,959.08; the 2,771cc (turbo) MTB 150t is RM53,934.23 while the 4,334cc MTB 150dx is RM59,843.43.

Malaysian Truck and Bus is a joint-venture between Diversified Resources Berhad (40 per cent), Hicom Holdings Berhad (40 per cent) and Isuzu Motors Limited (20 per cent) with a paid-up capital of RM100 million.

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