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Mahathir-Proton

MAHATHIR CONFIDENT PROTON WILL BE ABLE TO COMPETE IN WORLD MARKET

SHAH ALAM, Aug 24 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today spoke of the need to produce Proton cars at reasonable prices for the national car to compete in the international market.

He said that at the moment, Proton cars were not competitive in the world market as far as the price was concerned.

The Korean cars, for example, were much cheaper than Malaysian cars, he said.

However, the quality of the national car was the same as that of cars produced by other countries "and this should be maintained," he told reporters after flagging off participants of the Proton 300KM Merdeka Race and Carnival at the Shah Alam circuit, here.

He said that as there was a lot of interest in Proton cars locally and internationally, Proton would be able to compete in the world market.

He said Proton was doing its best to bring the cost down and at the same time maintain quality and "I believe that soon we can have the competitiveness (in the international market)."

On the Proton 300 KM Merdeka Race, Dr Mahathir said it was a good way of celebrating the National Day because, in a way, it showed the progress achieved by the country since gaining independence 40 years ago.

"There have been many changes. Where previously we would not dream of having a race involving our own cars, today it (the car) even sounds like the Formula One," he said. -- BERNAMA

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