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MAHATHIR ON THREE-DAY WORKING VISIT TO JAPAN

By: Zainoor Sulaiman

OKAYAMA (Japan), July 19 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is on a seven-day holiday-cum-working visit, flew to Toyama this morning to visit Japanese motorcar and railway industries.

Soon upon arrival in Toyama, the Prime Minister and his entourage were taken on a tour of the Matsuoka Car plant specialising in producing classical and antique car models using Nissan car engines.

The company's president, Susumu Matsuoka, briefed the Prime Minister on the operations of his company which was established in 1968.

The plant, which employs about 100 workers, produces 10 units of such cars a month, the price ranging from 1.5 million Yen (USD30,000) to 3.5 million Yen (USD70,000)

The Malaysian ambassador, Tan Sri Mohamed Khatib Abdul Hamid, and Perodua managing director Datuk Abdul Rahman Omar, accompanied the Prime Minister during his visit to the plant.

Dr Mahathir later attended a luncheon hosted by Governor of Toyama, Yutaka Nakaoki.

In the afternoon, he will visit Kurobe Kyokoku Railway Ltd and took a ride on a half hour scenic journey on hillslope train tracks from Kuronagi to Unazuki. He returns here later this evening.

The Prime Minister arrived here last night after a private visit to Kobe.

Tomorrow, Dr Mahathir is scheduled to meet Okayama Governor Masaaahiro Ishii and meet local political and business leaders.

On Monday, he will hold dialogue with selected business, academic and political leaders.

He will return to Kuala Lumpur on July 22, ending his two-month "working holiday" abroad. -- BERNAMA

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