

24 AUG 1997

MALAYSIAN-MADE VAN TO HIT THE MARKET THIS OCTOBER

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 24 (Bernama) -- The second Malaysian-made van, "Inokom-Permas", manufactured by Industri Otomotif Komersial Malaysia (Inokom) using the Renault technology from France, will hit the market in October.

Inokom director Tengku Datuk Adnan Tengku Mansor said today the 2.2 litre van was expected to be launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed at its plant in Kulim on Sept 18.

Basically, 60 per cent of the van used local content, he said, adding that the petrol engine would later be converted for diesel use. The van was targeted at petty-traders and shopowners.

Inokom also planned to produce trucks using the Hyundai technology by middle of next year, he told reporters after Dr Mahathir inspected the seven variants of the van at the Equestrian Country Club, Bukit Kiara, here.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir witnessed the signing of a Rakan Sukan programme between the Equestrian Association of Malaysia and IBEX Corporation Amalgamated Sdn Bhd.

Inokom's shareholders comprise Berjaya Group Bhd (35 per cent), Koperasi Polis Diraja Malaysia subsidiary Pesumal (M) Sdn Bhd (30 per cent) and Hyumal Motor Sdn Bhd (five percent), while the remaining 30 per cent is equally shared by Regie Nationale Des Usines Renault SA and Hyundai Motor Co.

Asked on the selling price of the van, Tengku Adnan said it was still being determined by the International Trade and Industry Ministry but stressed that it would be affordable. --BERNAMA

RHM JK