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National truck launch on Oct 18

THE first national truck, produced by a joint venture made up of Diversified Resources Bhd, Hicom Holdings Bhd and Isuzu Motors Ltd, will roll out from Automotive Manufacturers (M) Sdn Bhd' plant in Peramu, near Pekan, Pahang, in October.

The joint venture company, Malaysian Trucks & Bus Sdn Bhd, would design, manufacture and distribute the trucks which are based on Isuzu's 100PN-series.

Hicom and DRB each hold 40 per cent equity in the venture while Isuzu of Japan accounts for the balance.

DRB-Hicom group executive chairman Datuk Saleh Sulong said in Pekan yesterday that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was expected to officiate at the launch on Oct 18.

"It will be held here, in Pekan," he told reporters after attending a ceremony to change the name of Institut Kemahiran Mara Pekan to Institut Kemahiran Mara Tan Sri Yahaya Ahmad.

Malaysian Trucks & Bus, formerly known as Hicom Commercial Vehicles Sdn Bhd, has an authorised share capital of RM100 million while its paid-up capital stood at RM12.5 million. Total cost of the truck project is RM280 million.

In another development, Saleh said discussions were under way to get the 200-odd vendors and national car component suppliers to relocate their factories to Pekan.

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