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PM to launch Malaysian-made van on Sept 18

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THE second Malaysia-made van, Inokom Permas, manufactured by Industri Otomotif Komersial Malaysia (Inokom) will be marketed in October this year, said Inokom director Tengku Datuk Adnan Tengku Mansor.

He said the vans, which are manufactured using Renault technology from France, will be launched on September 18 by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the plant in Kulim.

Speaking to reporters after the signing ceremony between Ibex Corp Amalgamated Sdn Bhd and the Equestrian Association of Malaysia (EAM) in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, Adnan said the vans were targeted at petty shopowners, traders and the lower end market buyers.

He said the company was also planning a diesel engine variation of the 2.2 litre petrol van, and next year, trucks using Hyundai technology will be manufactured.

Inokom is 70 per cent Malaysian owned, (out of which the Berjaya Group Bhd holds a 30 per cent share), 15 per cent by French carmaker Renault and the remaining 15 per cent by Hyundai Motor Co.

Tengku Adnan did not disclose the price of the van, as the Ministry of International Trade and Industry has yet to approve it.

Earlier, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad witnessed the signing of a Rakan Sukan programme in which Ibex will donate RM600,000 over a five year period to the EAM for the association's administrative purposes.

Dr Mahathir, who has himself been riding for the past 12 years, said he was happy with the progress which equestrian sports has made in the country.

"In Malaysia, especially in and around KL, the sport has really picked up. National riding and showjumping competitions are well attended, and in February next year we will play host to the International Showjumping 1998," he said.

"The agreement to hold the show here is recognition of Malaysia as a world class riding country," he said, adding that increase in number of riding clubs in the country will also encourage local youths to make better use of their time rather than spend it uselessly hanging around shopping complexes.

EAM was represented by its president, Tan Sri Musa Hitam and Ibex by its chairman, Datuk Yahya Abdul Jalil.

This is the second year which Ibex has donated to the EAM.

The competition next year will attract the top 20 riders in the world, and will cost RM2 million to host.

It is the first time the competition will be held in South East Asia.

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