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DR MAHATHIR LAUNCHES NEW PERDANA, SATRIA MODELS

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 12 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today launched the new models of Proton Perdana V6 and Satria GTi manufactured by the DRB-Hicom Group.

The new Perdana is powered by a two-litre 24-valve engine while the Satria has a 1.8-litre engine.

Present at the ceremony, held at the Putra Indoor Stadium in Bukit Jalil here, were Dr Mahathir's wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and Perusahaan Otomobil Nasional Berhad (Proton) chairman Tan Sri Mohd Saleh Sulong.

National car manufacturer Proton said this is the first time that it had launched two variations simultaneously and these models represent very substantial engineering changes apart from interior and exterior cosmetic refinements.

The Perdana V6 is intended for customers who want luxury and comfort as well as performance from a top of the line car that is affordably priced.

Proton said the Satria GTi was developed for the very discriminate driver who wants not only performance but superb driveability, to enjoy motoring to a higher level.

The models are the results of close collaboration between Proton's Research and Development (R&D) and Lotus Engineering in Norwich, Britain.

The Perdana and Satria are distributed by Edaran Otomobil Nasional Berhad (EON) and Usahasama Proton-DRB Sdn Bhd (USPD) respectively. Both companies are subsidiaries of DRB-Hicom.

The national car features prominently in the ongoing Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum hosted by Malaysia as more than 80 Perdanas of various models are being used to ferry dignitaries around.

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