

10 JUL 1998

Games-Suria

300 ELECTRIC CARS FOR COMMONWEALTH GAMES

IPOH, July 10 (Bernama) -- Elektriksuria, Malaysia's first electric car, will be widely used, beginning tomorrow, at all the venues of the Kuala Lumpur 98 Commonwealth Games.

Perusahaan Otomobil Elektrik Malaysia (POEM) chairman Datuk Dr Ahmad Tajuddin Ali said 50 units of the cars will be handed over to the games organisers, SUKOM Ninety Eight Bhd, tomorrow for the pre-Commonwealth Games competitions which will be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

POEM will give another 250 units of the cars for use during the 11 days of the actual Games beginning Sept 11, he told reporters after signing an agreement between POEM and Teknocraft Sdn Bhd for Teknocraft to produce and supply the body of the car.

Tajuddin signed the RM200 million agreement for POEM while Teknocraft was represented by its Managing Director, Azhar Ibrahim.

POEM, which plans to produce the third national car, is owned by Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TEN) through a 50 percent equity holding while Frazer-Nash Research Limited of United Kingdom holds 40 percent and the remaining 10 percent by Composite Automotive Research (CAR) and Tan Sri Basir Ismail.

Tajuddin said 70 units of the electric cars would be painted in the colours of the national flags of the countries participating in the Games.

The rest of the cars would be painted in the colours of the corporate logo of companies sponsoring the Games, he said.

He said POEM was satisfied with Teknocraft's production quality which was also praised by Frazer-Nash.

On the Road Transport Department's approval for the cars, Tajuddin said the noise and pollution-free cars have been given approval for limited use in all roads except highways.

Tajuddin said the elektriksuria would not compete with the national cars such as the Kancil and Proton because the electric cars have a limited range of only 100 km and need recharging.

-- BERNAMA

LAT DSR