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INOKOM-VAN

INOKOM HOPES TO SELL AT LEAST 30 UNITS OF INOKOM PERMAS MONTHLY

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 7 (Bernama) -- Industri Otomotif Komersil (M) Sdn Bhd (Inokom), which launched its "Inokom Permas" commercial and passenger van today hopes to sell at least 30 units of this model a month.

Its managing director, Lim Khoon Yee, said that 70 units of the petrol-powered 2.2 litre vans have been booked so far, adding that the vehicle could be used as mobile canteen, school bus, ambulance and private van.

Speaking to reporters after the launching ceremony here today, he said that a diesel-powered van, which is still at the testing stage, is expected to be launched sometime next year.

The company, he added, has planned to introduce light trucks in the near future.

The van was launched by international trade and industry minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz, who represented Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Lim also said that the van, which combined France-based Renault's technology and that of South Korean Hyundai's, would be sold at an affordable price of between RM41,746.32 for a panel van and RM60,912.53 for a long wheel-base, high-roof window van.

He said Inokom Permas would be distributed by well established automotive companies Quasar Carriage Sdn Bhd and Hyumal Motor Sdn Bhd.

Although the companies also distribute other makes of vehicles, Lim said each has its wealth of experience and services that are very much customer-oriented in design and approach.

"Each company has about 15 to 20 dealers", he said.

Inokom, which commenced operation in August last year, is the first project undertaken fully by a private sector in collaboration with Renault and Hyundai.

The local shareholders of the company are Berjaya Group Berhad (35 percent), Polis Diraja Malaysia Cooperative's subsidiary Pesumals (M) Sdn Bhd (30 percent) and Hyumal Motor Sdn Bhd (five percent).

The company's plant is located in an 80-hectare site in Kulim, Kedah.

Lim said the plant could produce 20,000 vehicles a year on a one-shift basis.

For a time being, Lim said the company would only concentrate on local market, adding that it would venture abroad when the "right time comes". --

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