

08 MAY 2000

MAHATHIR-WAJA

DR MAHATHIR LAUNCHES ALL-NEW PROTON WAJA

SHAH ALAM, May 8 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today launched the first-ever Malaysian-designed car, Proton Waja.

The family-oriented car was developed with a RM970-million budget and 1.7-million engineering man-hours.

The Prime Minister launched the 1.6-litre version of the car in a glittering ceremony at the Malawati stadium here.

Dr Mahathir also launched the new logo for Proton.

Also present at the launch were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah, Cabinet Ministers, Proton chairman Tan Sri Mohd Saleh Sulong and its chief executive officer Tengku Datuk Paduka Mahaleel Tengku Ariff.

The car emerged from a challenge made by the Prime Minister in 1996 that Proton should design and produce its own car at affordable prices.

The sedan would be available on the road from December and its sales volume is estimated at 40,000 to 50,000 units per year.

As part of the launch ceremony, Mohd Saleh Sulong presented Dr Mahathir with the keys to the first Proton Waja which was later handed over to The National Science Centre.

The director of the centre, Dr Sharifah Barlian Aidid, received the keys from the Prime Minister on behalf of the centre. -- BERNAMA

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