

Iran suggests a Proton plant to reduce unemployment

STAR 26 MAY 2002

SINTOK: The Iranian Government wants Proton to build a factory in their country.

Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Dr Shafie Mohd Salleh said the request was conveyed to a group of Malaysian Members of Parliament, who were in Iran recently for a friendship trip to meet their Iranian counterparts.

Dr Shafie, who was a member of the Malaysian delegation said the Iranians wanted the factory to be built as the unemployment rate in the country was high.

"The Iranians also hoped that Malaysia would transfer its car making technology to them with the building of such a factory.

"I will convey the Iranian request to Prime

Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad," he added.

Dr Shafie was speaking to reporters on Friday after opening a four-day cyber camp at Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) here, which was attended by 307 Form Four and Five students.

The camp is organised by the Kubang Pasu Community Development Foundation and UUM.

Dr Shafie said the Malaysian delegation proposed to their Iranian counterparts to encourage their people to consider Malaysia as a tourist destination and also send their children to further their studies here or even to seek medical treatment.