

PM launches

Nst 2 0 JUN 2002

Malaysia's own Trailwagon for ferrying goods

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday launched Edaran Otomobil Nasional's Trailwagon which can be used to ferry goods.

"The Trailwagon is actually a normal thing in the Western countries, but here it is relatively new," EON's Automotive OEM and REM manager Mohd Fawzy A. Wahid said.

He said the Trailwagon was actually a German design, which has been modified to suit the Malaysian market.

For now it comes in six variants. The basic unit is only the trailer, but it can be tailored to suit the needs of users, like with a hard cover top, canopy and frame. It can also be modified into a night market version.

Future versions will have added on features like an adapter to transport a kart or a jetski.

"The basic unit is a base model which you could later fit extra options like the kart adapter that will just bolt on the trailer."

The Trailwagon weighs only 350kg when empty and can carry loads up to 400kg. It is two metres long, one metre wide and half a metre deep.

The car pulling the trailer should be no less than 1500cc. "Anything smaller and you will have problems pulling the trailer and braking," said Fawzy.

The Trailwagon was put through various tests for safety and quality.

"The first prototype didn't pass the Road Transport Department's requirements because it didn't have its own braking system. For user safety, we fitted a braking system," Fawzy said.

When the driver applies the brakes, a mechanism attached to the car is pushed backward into the trailer.

This will automatically apply pressure to the drum brakes fitted to each wheel and assist in slowing down or stopping. The brake also applies as parking brakes for the trailer.

There are two stabiliser bars at the back of the trailer to help stabilise it when parked and a third small wheel can be lowered at the front when there are no support on that end.

The basic version of the Trailwagon is priced at RM8,301.65 for private registration and RM8,424.82 for commercial.