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PROTON-MODELS

PROTON UNVEILS PICK-UP DESIGN CAR ARENA AND UPGRADED WAJA 1.8

PUTRAJAYA, Nov 7 (Bernama) -- Perusahaan Otomobil Nasional Bhd (Proton) today unveiled its latest model, Proton Arena, a pick-up designed like a car, and an upgraded Waja 1.8 litre.

Both models were launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at Putrajaya Square here. Also present was Proton chief executive officer Tengku Tan Sri Mahaleel Tengku Ariff.

The Arena is based on a tried-and tested mechanicals of the Proton Wira 1.5 saloon but features a two-seater cabin and a spacious flatbed to meet the demands of a cross activity vehicle.

The pickup format is created by combining the monocoque construction on the saloon car with a load-bearing ladder-frame. Fusing them together is a "torque box" which produces a strong combined structure.

The engine, which meets the EURO II standard for emission control, is the 1.5 litre 12-valve EFI unit that drives the Wira 1.5, with Proton's proprietary EMS400 engine management system.

Proton Arena combines the front suspension of the Wira saloon with a torsion beam, parabolic spring set-up at the rear.

It comes in three versions, the low line (RM37,250.21), sporty medium line (RM39,552.22) and sporty high line (RM41,249.42).

On the other hand the new 1.8 litre Proton Waja features drive-by-wire, variable valve timing and auto adaptive transmission for immediate digital response and an improved driving experience.

The latest Waja is powered by a 1.8 -litre four cylinder DOHC 16-valve engine with enhanced ride and handling and reduced noise, vibration and harshness.

Safety features in the 1.8 Waja include an enhanced all-disc brake system complemented by electronic brake force distribution, which optimises brake force according to the load in the vehicle as well as airbags for the driver and the front passengers on the premium models.

Waja 1.8 on the road price is between RM77,000 to RM78,000 depending on the accessories package. -- BERNAMA

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