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Karisma the scooter from Modenas to hit Malaysian roads in January

GURUN, Fri. - National motorcycle manufacturer Modenas today launched the name for its coming scooter - Karisma.

To hit the market in January next year, the Karisma is powered by a 125cc four-stroke engine with Continuously Variable Transmission and will be priced below RM5,000.

Datuk Mohd Nor Mohamad, senior director of DRB-Hicom group, the parent company of Modenas, said the name was chosen from a list of five shortlisted from the many suggestions made by the 900 staff of Modenas.

"We submitted the selected name, Karisma, to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who approved it."

The Karisma was developed in partnership between Modenas and Taiwan motorcycle manufacturer Motive Power Technology Company Ltd.

Its features include front disc brakes, "crystal" design signal lamps, a wheel lock as standard equipment, and a single key for both the ignition and the wheel lock.

The scooter will come with an option of three basic colours, all of which have yet to be finalised pending feedback from dealers and agents.

Edaran Modenas Sdn Bhd deputy general manager Azmi Abdul Wahab said the scooter had passed extensive testing for over 15,000 hours in various weather conditions.

Its chief executive officer Nik Danial Nik Mahmood said Modenas was offering a special introductory price for the first 3,000 customers. To qualify, customers need to pay RM50 as a booking fee/deposit payment by cheque or money order, made out to Emos Sdn Bhd.

The payment should be handed to any Modenas authorised dealer.

Nik Danial said customers who bought the Karisma were assured of good after-sales service with guaranteed availability of spare parts.

"We have already ordered over RM1 million worth of spare parts for the Karisma which will be delivered next month."