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NAZA-PLANT

NAZA INVESTS RM350 MLN TO BUILD MPV PLANT IN GURUN

GURUN, Sept 13 (Bernama) -- The Naza Group of Companies had invested RM350 million to build a manufacturing and assembly plant in Gurun, which will produce the national multipurpose vehicle (MPV).

Its managing director Tan Sri SM Nasimuddin SM Amin said that the plant, which would be completed in 18 months, has the capacity to produce 60,000 units of vehicles a year and offers 2,000 job opportunities.

He said that the main model would be the MPV under the Naza brand name and would be marketed locally and in the Asean markets.

In order to produce the national MPV, which uses the Kia Carnival as its basic model, the company has joined up with a number of local component manufacturers and research firms to come out with the design.

"At the initial stage of the production, the national MPV will use 40 percent local components," he told reporters after a ground breaking ceremony for the Naza Automotive Manufacturing Sdn Bhd manufacturing and assembly plant by prime minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad here today.

Also present was Korean ambassador to Malaysia Rhee Young Min, Kia Motors Corporation, Korea chief executive officer Noi Myung Kim and Naza Kia Sdn Bhd chairman Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Ismail.

At the ceremony, SM Nasimuddin, who represented the Naza Group of Companies, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Kedah State Development Corporation (PKNK) concerning the purchase of 59 ha of land for the plant.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain, who is also the chairman of PKNK, represented the corporation.

SM Nasimuddin said that the plant also assembled a number of passenger and commercial cars via the completely knocked down (CKD) methods under the Kia brand from Korea like Kia Spectra, Kia Carnival MPV and a number of other models.

He said that with the plant, a number of local component companies would be able to construct their plants in Gurun and Sungai Petani, which would further liven up the economic activity in these areas. -- BERNAMA

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