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MAHATHIR-INOKOM

PRIME MINISTER AT CERTIFICATION FOR MASS PRODUCTION OF INOKOM ATOS

PUTRAJAYA, Nov 28 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today witnessed the signing of the certification for the mass production of the Inokom Atos, a multi-function vehicle (MFV), here.

Inokom Atos is a collaboration between Industri Otomotif Komersial (M) Sdn Bhd (Inokom) and Hyundai Motors Company, Korea, through a technical license agreement (TLA) that was signed between both parties earlier this year.

This TLA is fundamental in terms of the transfer of technology and allows Inokom to assemble the MFV with the supply parts from HMC, Inokom said in a statement released at the ceremony.

After evaluating Inokom's facilities, work process, quality control and management system, HMC gave the nod for the mass production of the Inokom Atos which was developed based on the Hyundai Atos model.

At the signing ceremony, Inokom was represented by its chairman, Amer Hamzah Ahmed, while HMC was represented by its vice-chairman, Park Pyung Jae.

Inokom is a joint venture between Berjaya Group Bhd (35 percent), Persumal (M) Sdn Bhd (30 percent), HMC (15 percent), Renault SA (15 percent), Hyundai Motors Sdn Bhd (5.0 percent).

Currently, Inokom is the national manufacturer of light commercial trucks and vans as well as the contract assembler of other vehicles at its 200 acre plant in Kulim.

The Inokom Atos would be the first MFV to be manufactured at the plant and is expected to roll out in December this year.

Locally, the car will be distributed solely by Hyundai-Berjaya Sdn Bhd which also distributes other Hyundai cars in Malaysia.

Hyundai Motor Sdn Bhd, an associate company of Berjaya Group, is the franchise holder of Hyundai passenger cars and light commercial vehicles in Malaysia.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir attended a private meeting with the representatives of HMC, Inokom and Hyundai-Berjaya.

The statement said that he also spent a few minutes to inspect the features and fittings of the vehicle.

Despite its compact external dimensions, the one-litre engine capacity Inokom Atos, could be converted to seat five adults comfortably and would have a spacious and practical interior to make driving a pleasant experience.

This MFV would be priced very affordably and could also be used as a mini van for commercial purposes, said Inokom.

Inokom would be poised to face up to the challenges arising from the creation of the Asean Free Trade Area (Afta) besides enhancing the strength of the Malaysian automotive industry in the production of a quality vehicle that is priced competitively.

Also present at the ceremony was Berjaya Group chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Tan Sri Vincent Tan. -- BERNAMA

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