

15 JAN 2003

SIME-BMW

SIME TO SIGN BMW DEAL BY END FEB

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 15 (Bernama) -- Sime Darby Bhd expects to sign an agreement with BMW AG in regards to wholesale rights by the end of February.

"Negotiations are still on-going. I think it's coming to the end and I hope to sign by end of February," said Sime Darby group chief executive, Tan Sri Nik Mohamed Nik Yaacob.

However, he declined to further elaborate on the deal.

The Germany-based BMW had told Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in March last year that it wanted to set up Asean headquarters in Malaysia.

The luxury carmaker wants to focus trading activities in Cyberjaya while its manufacturing facilities will be in Thailand.

BMW also intends setting up a company in Malaysia to handle the wholesale business which includes assembly, marketing and pricing of the BWM vehicles.

Sime Darby's 72 percent-owned Tractors Malaysia Bhd currently wholesales, assembles and distributes BMW vehicles in Malaysia. -- BERNAMA

LES KTC