

Dr M to shed some light on Proton developments

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IN PUTRAJAYA

PROTON Holdings Bhd advisor Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to shed some light on developments surrounding the national car manufacturer today amid reports that its chief executive officer Tengku Tan Sri Mahaleel Tengku Ariff has been issued a show-cause letter over his outburst in the media.

Dr Mahathir met Proton chairman Datuk Azlan Hashim at his office here yesterday to find out "what had happened" and will be holding a press conference in Kuala Lumpur.

Azlan refused to divulge any information when he emerged from the 75-minute meeting.

Pressed by reporters, Azlan replied: "Its not something that I should discuss in the media."

Earlier in the day, when approached by reporters after the signing of an agreement for a development project, Dr Mahathir said he would be meeting Azlan and would ask him what happened.

"Yes, tomorrow (today) I will have a press conference. I know a little from the newspapers and all that but I need confirmation.

"Now I can't make a comment based on newspaper reports because sometimes you all report something else. So I have to find out the true situation," he added.

It was reported last week that Tengku Mahaleel was given the show-cause letter by Proton's board of directors over an interview he had given to a Chinese daily in which he was critical of the Government's automotive policy.

But Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi denied the matter a day later, saying that the Khazanah Nasional Bhd board meeting that he chaired did not discuss the matter.

In the interview, Tengku Mahaleel lamented the poor treatment Proton was receiving from the Government, which is a major shareholder in the company through Khazanah.