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PROTON-TANJUNG MALIM

PROTON TG MALIM EXPECTS TO CONTRIBUTE RM700 MLN-RM1 BLN IN EXCISE DUTY

IPOH, Feb 12 (Bernama) -- The RM1.8 billion new state-of-the-art Proton assembly plant in Tanjung Malim is expected to contribute between RM700 million and RM1 billion a year in excise duty once its production capacity reaches 150,000 cars a year.

Proton Tanjung Malim chief executive officer, Datuk Kamaruzaman Darus said that they were working hard towards achieving the target and the plant was currently churning out Proton's newest model, the GEN-2.

"The plant is built with the latest technology as Proton strives towards efficiency. We want to be efficient in assembling the car, marketing and servicing," he said after an e-Eksais signing ceremony here today between the Royal Customs and Excise Department, Proton Tanjung Malim and RHB Bank.

The deal was to enable the new manufacturing and assembly plant to subscribe to the e-Eksais system which would allow for online registering and payment of excise duty on new cars.

The event was witnessed by Deputy Finance Minister, Datuk Dr Shafie Mohd Salleh, Customs Deputy Director-General (Management), Datuk Rashid Bolong, and Proton Director of Operation, Datuk Kisai Rahmat.

The plant located in Proton City, about 11km from Tanjung Malim, will produce Proton's new generation of cars and the first is GEN-2, which uses Proton's own design campro engine.

Built on a 512-hectare site which is almost five times the area of the Shah Alam plant, it is expected to produce up to 150,000 units per year.

The plant itself has the capacity to produce up to one million vehicles per year compared with the Shah Alam plant which is limited to producing only 230,000 units per year.

The ground breaking ceremony for Proton City was officiated by former

Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on March 1996 but the project was suspended in January 1998 due to the economic recession. It was restarted in January 2002 and completed at the end of last year.

Kamaruzaman said the plant, which is likely to have between 1,200 to 1,800 workers by end of the year, faced many challenges.

"It's a new platform which uses a lot of technology and requires a lot of capability and expertise. We are also using new engine while the manufacturing process is also new which needs new thinking as well," he added.

He said the Shah Alam plant will continue to produce other models such as Iswara, Wira, Waja, Satria and Perdana.

On the e-Eksais, Kamaruzaman said it would help Proton to become more efficient and generate considerable savings in terms of time, cost and manpower.

Unlike the conventional system that requires the submission of seven copies of the Excise 7 form per car, the e-Eksais transaction would be done via a fixed and secure lease line, online. With the click of a button, the approval and relevant information would be relayed back to Proton within minutes of submission.

The Proton plant in Shah Alam which has already adopted the e-Eksais system, submits applications averaging 600 vehicles per day and last year, the national car maker saved RM393,400 in terms of documentation, incurring only RM17,000 which is the annual subscription fee for e-Eksais.

Perak's Custom Director, Mohd Sehan Awang said that with the system, there was no need for Proton officials to come daily to Ipoh to register and pay the excise duty.

"At the end of the day, RHB Bank will submit a statement to us on the daily transaction and how much Proton pays for excise duty. It's a 24 hour system and we will have our own check and balance system," he added.

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