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Mahathir-Proton

DR MAHATHIR REMAINS PROTON ADVISER

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 29 (Bernama) -- Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he is still adviser to Proton despite recent developments in the national car maker and a news report of him returning seven Proton vehicles given to him.

"Yes. I am still the adviser as far as I know," he said when asked whether he would remain as adviser.

"Those cars were sent to me for testing and I think they are not properly documented. They are not my cars, they belong to Proton.

"So, I have to give them back because I have finished using them. I can't use many cars," he said after delivering a keynote address entitled: "The Thinking of a Thinker," at a seminar hosted by the International Islamic University Malaysia on Thinking.

He said his own Proton car was a Proton Saga which he bought long time ago.

Dr Mahathir said whenever Proton came up with a new model, it has been a norm of the company to send him one to test-drive.

"I've finished trying and have returned them," he said.

Asked if his returning of the cars was a rebuff on issues surrounding Proton, Dr Mahathir said: "They can see it in what way they like. The thing is they (the cars) don't belong to me and I have returned them to the owner."

The news report quoting sources said Dr Mahathir was "deeply hurt" by developments in Proton which included the departure of its chief executive officer Tengku Tan Sri Mahaleel Tengku Ariff and the Approved Permit (AP) issue.

Proton Holdings Bhd announced on July 25 that Tengku Mahaleel's contract would not be renewed and he would be on leave till the contract expired on Sept 30.

On whether he was unhappy with what was going on in Proton, Dr Mahathir said he was not aware of what was happening in Proton as he had no communication with the board.

"I can only advise if I know something is happening," he added.

-- BERNAMA

SM SD TOM