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MAHATHIR-MAHALEEL

MAHATHIR NOT AWARE OF MAHALEEL LEAVING PROTON

PUTRAJAYA, Jan 19 (Bernama) -- Proton adviser Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad says he is unaware of Tan Sri Mahaleel Tengku Ariff's intention to leave the national car maker as reported Tuesday.

"I did not hear anything (about Tengku Mahaleel leaving). I do not know," he told reporters after meeting Joseph E Stiglitz, economic professor at Columbia University, at his office at the Perdana Leadership Foundation here today.

The former Prime Minister said that Tengku Mahaleel did not say anything about his intention to leave Proton.

"But he did tell me that his term will end in April," Dr Mahathir said when asked to comment on a report which stated that the group chief executive of Proton Holdings Bhd is not renewing his contract when it expires this April.

Asked whether Tengku Mahaleel will be replaced by a foreign chief executive as stated in the report, he said:"To-date I do not know anything."

Stiglitz, a Nobel laureate economist was one of the few economists who defended Malaysia's capital control imposed in 1998 following the 1997 Asian financial crisis. -- BERNAMA

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