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RAFIDAH-LETTER

RAFIDAH NON-COMMITTAL ON WHETHER LETTER SENT TO DR M

KUALA LUMPUR, July 8 (Bernama) -- International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz was non-committal today on whether she has sent her letter replying to former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad on issues raised by the Proton advisor relating to the automotive industry and Proton.

"Ask the PM (prime minister)," she said hurriedly before leaving the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here where a seminar organised by Wanita Umno was held today. The event was launched by Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Rafidah had said in Ipoh yesterday that her private secretary would be sending the letter to Dr Mahathir at an appropriate time.

She said that she had prepared the letter which contained all the facts, statistics and information related to the issues raised by Dr Mahathir in the media.

The Cabinet at its meeting Wednesday had asked Rafidah to write a letter to Dr Mahathir replying to all the issues raised pertaining to the government's automotive policy.

A copy of the letter has been also sent to the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister.

Among the issues raised by Dr Mahathir was the concentration of Approved Permits (AP) on only a few companies, the government's auto policy as well as the entry of foreign cars at very low prices which reduced the national car's competitiveness.

Dr Mahathir had said this at a press conference called last Tuesday where he defended Proton Chief Executive Officer Tengku Tan Sri Mahaleel Tengku Ariff's outburst and criticism of the government's auto policy in an interview the latter gave to Oriental Daily, a Chinese language newspaper.

-- BERNAMA

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