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PROTON-ADVISOR

TUN DR MAHATHIR REMAINS PROTON ADVISOR

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

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

"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.

Dr Mahathir was met after his keynote address entitled: "The Thinking of a Thinker," at a seminar by The International Islamic University on Thinking.

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

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

"I finished trying (hence, I returned it to 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 newsreport had stated that Dr Mahathir was "deeply hurt" by developments in Proton, which included the departure of chief executive officer, Tengku Tan Sri Mahaleel Tengku Ariff, and the Approval Permit issue.

Proton Holdings Bhd announced on July 25 that Tengku Mahaleel's tenure of service would not be renewed and he would be on leave till the expiry of his contract on Sept 30, 2005.

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

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

BERNAMA

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