

# Stop depending on govt, auto makers told

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Local car makers and distributors must equip themselves to compete under the Asean Free Trade Area and WTO trade liberalisation instead of depending on government protection.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi urged the local players to enter into smart partnerships, including with foreign automotive companies, for transfer of technology and expertise.

Abdullah said the Government had always encouraged foreign automotive manufacturers to establish production bases in Malaysia and to use local components in their production processes.

The local automotive industry, he said, must strive to use local components, which should be of international standards.

Abdullah said this during the launch of Naza Bikes Sdn Bhd's six new models - the Prisma 110cc, the Prisma 125cc, Gemilang II 150cc scooter, Cruise easy rider 250cc, Blade street bike 250cc and Blade street bike 650cc.

The scooters and motorcycles were manufactured under technical collaboration between Naza Bikes with ChongQing Zongshen Group of China and Hyosung Motors of South Korea.



**NEW MODEL:** Abdullah sitting astride a Cruise 250cc easyrider during the launch in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With him is Naza Bikes managing director Tan Sri SM Nasimuddin SM Amin. - STARpic by AZHAR MAHFOF