

Proton-Mitsubishi talks: I was not aware, says Dr M

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — A disappointed Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said he had been unaware that national carmaker Proton was in talks with Mitsubishi Motor Corporation of Japan.

The Proton adviser said he often had to learn of such things through the newspapers. "I am not aware of anything. They (the Proton board) do things without my knowledge, so I cannot be aware if they are talking or not.

"I do not give advice anymore. I just listen. As long as they do not sack me, I will be the adviser," he said after launching the Maju Talks series on "The Global Political-Economic Scenario Beyond 2020: Its Ramifications and Implications with Special Reference to Malaysia" here.

Asked if the Proton board still sought his advice, Dr Mahathir said it sometimes kept him informed but at other times, he learned about things from the Press.

He said he had posed some questions to the Proton board but they had gone unanswered. "I thought they were supposed to be transparent with everything."

Referring to Proton's sale of MV Agusta Motors SpA for €1 (RM4.48), Dr Mahathir said: "You buy something for €70 million and sell it off for €1 and say you don't lose any money.

"I just cannot comprehend how I can buy something for 100 dollars and sell it for one cent. You figure it out."

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