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Dr M: Proton's Iriz EV to debut in Europe

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SHAH ALAM: Proton is setting its sights on exporting its Iriz EV electric car to Europe, says Proton Holdings Bhd chairman Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The former prime minister said the Iriz EV's ability to travel 300km per charge was even better than other more expensive electric cars in the market.

"But the cost is high. Our plan is

to produce the car for Europe as there will be no penalties or fines for emissions," Dr Mahathir said during the Alami Proton Carnival 2015 at the Proton Centre of Excellence here.

The zero-emission penalty for exporting the Iriz EV would also allow Proton to offset the export cost of other vehicles, which have yet to meet the Euro 5 emission standards.

Dr Mahathir said Proton was able to match the sophistication and safety of other global car makers. This included providing up to six air bags for their cars.

But he said Malaysians were not ready "to pay a bit extra" to drive more sophisticated cars.

Later, at a high tea event at the De Palma hotel in Ampang themed "Kembalikan Maruah Perjuangan

Bangsa" (Redeem the pride of the race), Dr Mahathir said the only way for the nation to redeem itself from all its recent setbacks was by removing the current Prime Minister.

Speaking to a crowd made up of dignitaries and the general public, Dr Mahathir said the problems included the drop in the currency and the worsening corruption.