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Dr Mahathir: Proton to maintain car prices

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PROTON Holdings Bhd will maintain the current selling prices of its cars despite incurring higher imported material costs due to the weakening ringgit, said its chairman Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said the national car-maker currently has to sell its cars at the prices fixed by the government.

"Now with the currency down, imported material costs are higher but we still try to maintain the price (of Proton

cars)," he told reporters after officiating the Alami Proton Carnival 2015 in Shah Alam on Saturday.

On another note, -Dr Mahathir said Proton plans to export the Proton Iriz electric car, which claims to be able to go up to 300km on a single charge, to the European market as well as ensuring all its vehicles manufactured in the future meet the Euro 5 emission standards.

"We have proposed to pro-

duce this car (Proton Iriz) for Europe, [we] don't have to pay a fine because it's efficient," he said.

Commenting on Proton's 30th anniversary this year since its inception in 1985, the former prime minister said that Proton wanted to correct the public's perception that the local car manufacturer produces low-quality cars.

He noted that Proton, which started its humble beginnings by producing mechanical cars,

has now been producing electrical-type vehicles which meet international standards.

"We have also been giving importance to safety features by introducing cars which has six airbags.

"Proton is seen as a catalyst in improving the Malaysian engineering capabilities," he said, adding that it remains steadfast amid the challenges in the automotive industry through the years.

— *Bernama*