



PERDANA
LEADERSHIP
FOUNDATION
Y A Y A S A N
KEPIMPINAN
PERDANA

PERDANA LIBRARY
PERDANA LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION
NEWSPAPER CLIPPING

Newspaper	MALAYSIAN RESERVE
Date	20 MAY 2014



DR MAHATHIR TO BE APPOINTED PROTON CHAIRMAN

The papers have been signed and as formality, it will be tabled for approval by the board at its next meeting. We expect the announcement to be made within the week — A source told The Malaysian Reserve

Pic by Hafzi Mohamed

DRB-Hicom's boldest move to transform Proton's fortunes

Malaysian Reserve - 20/5/2014

Former PM also said to be taking charge of Proton's subsidiary Lotus plc

by OUR REPORTER

FORMER Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad will be appointed chairman of Proton Holdings Bhd, effectively taking over the helm of the national carmaker.

Proton is expected to make an announcement within days in what is seen as DRB-Hicom Bhd's boldest move to date in its effort to transform Proton's sliding fortunes since it took the company private in 2012, sources familiar with the company said.

Dr Mahathir's appointment will also see the withdrawal of Proton's current executive chairman Tan Sri

Mohd Khamil Jamil from his post.

Dr Mahathir, who was instrumental in the setting up of Proton in the 1980s to spearhead Malaysia's drive towards industrialisation, will also be appointed chairman of Proton's wholly owned subsidiary Lotus plc.

"The papers have been signed and as a formality, it will be tabled for approval by the board at its next meeting. We expect the announcement to be made within the week," a source told *The Malaysian Reserve*.

Dr Mahathir, currently an advisor to the country's pioneer carmaker since retiring as prime minister in 2003, is understood to have accepted both appointments.

On April 30, Proton announced the appointment of Datuk Abdul Harith Abdullah as CEO to fill the leadership vacuum left by the resignation of Datuk Lukman Ibrahim who

vacated the deputy CEO post earlier this year.

Dr Mahathir's direct inclusion into Proton's management is the culmination of his long association with the car manufacturer, having been involved since its conception and establishment in 1983.

"This is an advantage to Proton. Dr Mahathir is actually taking the bull by its horns so to speak. He wants to see Proton succeed at all costs and if it requires micro-managing it, then he is prepared to do so.

"Dr Mahathir knows this is a make or break period for Proton and he is soaking up all the risks that come along with it," said the source.

Known then as Perusahaan Otomobil Nasional Bhd, the state-owned carmaker was established by the Mahathir administration as a catalyst to