

THIRD NATIONAL CAR PROJECT

# '3RD CAR PLAN WILL HELP US'

Malaysians lack knowledge of automotive engineering, says PM

HASHINI KAVISHTRI KANNAN  
**SEPANG**  
cnews@nstp.com.my

**T**HE goal of launching the third national car project is to let Malaysians gain knowledge in automotive engineering technology, said Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said he was concerned about the country's lack of knowledge in the industry.

"We know nothing about automotive engineering, that is why we are introducing the third national car... to learn and please learn.

"Malaysians think they know everything. They don't want the third national car because they say it is a waste of money.

"They think they know everything about automotive engineering, but they know nothing.

"You can see the progress China has made in a very short while because it went into the automotive business."

Earlier, he launched the Asia GT Festival at the Sepang Inter-

national Circuit (SIC) here.

He commended the owners of 70 first-generation Proton Saga cars after flagging off the Malaysia Speed Festival (MSF) Saga Cup race, which paid tribute to his brainchild in the 1980s.

"The 70 Proton Saga cars sounded like Formula One cars. And people think our cars are bad and ask others not to buy Malaysian cars, but buy foreign cars. They say 'don't go into the

third national car project'."

Dr Mahathir and Malaysian race car driver Jazeman Jaafar took the NIO EP9, one of the world's fastest high-powered electric cars, for a lap around the circuit. When asked about his experience, he said: "It was thrilling. My heart-beat rose to 140 per minute."

The three-day Asia GT Festival, which began on March 15 at Sepang International Circuit, is hosted by Country Heights and its



Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad with race car driver Jazeman Jaafar in the NIO EP9 electric car at the Asia GT Festival at the Sepang International Circuit yesterday. PIC BY AHMAD IRHAM MOHD NOOR