

Proton: No comment

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PUTRAJAYA, Mon. — Mum was the word today after Proton chairman Datuk Azlan Hashim emerged from a meeting with Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, advisor to the national car manufacturer.

On the agenda were events flowing from a recent interview Proton chief executive officer Tengku Mahaleel Ariff (picture) gave a Chinese daily.

In it, Mahaleel was critical of the Government's automotive



policy and lamented the "poor treatment" Proton was receiving from the Government, which is the major shareholder in the company through Khazanah Nasional.

Azlan spent more than an hour with Dr Mahathir at the Perdana Leadership Foundation here. He was not prepared to say anything when approached by reporters.

"When we have something to say, we will tell you. This is something which we should not discuss in the media."

Dr Mahathir said he would hold a press conference on the issue tomorrow.

On Friday, the *New Straits Times* reported that the board of Proton Holdings had discussed Mahaleel's interview with *Oriental Daily* and had given him the weekend to explain his comments to the newspaper.

Dr Mahathir said he knew of the events only from newspaper reports. "I know a little from the newspapers and all that, but I need confirmation. I can't make a comment based on newspaper reports because sometimes you all report something else.

"So I have to find out what is the true situation," said the former premier, who was instrumental in the formation of Proton.