

**Government Makes Right Decision To Sell Proton Stake To DRB-hicom, Says MAA
Bernama
January 17, 2012**

PETALING JAYA, Jan 17 (Bernama) -- The government has made the right business decision by selling its 42.74 per cent stake in Proton Holdings Bhd to DRB-HICOM Bhd, says the Malaysian Automotive Association (MAA).

Its president, Datuk Aishah Ahmad, said the government and Khazanah Nasional Bhd, the investment holding arm of the government, had done an accurate assessment on the quality of the bidders for the stake.

"DRB-HICOM is the right choice. Basically, it has vast experience in the car industry and is currently working with many world class manufacturers," she said after a media briefing on the "Motor Vehicle Market Review For 2011 and Outlook For 2012", here today.

Aishah said DRB-HICOM also has the right workforce and expertise to assist in boosting the national carmaker's image and further improve the quality of its cars in the long run.

On how the latest development would affect the industry, she said: "In the near term it may not have any effect but what happens in the future, it will really depend on what DRB-HICOM brings to the table for Proton."

Meanwhile, Aishah said, the change in Proton's shareholders would not have an impact on buyers' preference for the company's models.

"The Proton models need further engineering and restyling while being equipped with the latest technology to make them more appealing," she said.

On Monday, Khazanah has decided to sell its stake to the car and property conglomerate, DRB-HICOM for RM1.29 billion, or RM5.50 a share.

---BERNAMA

Copyright © 2012 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v6/newsindex.php?id=640631>