

UMW Toyota Motors Still Seeking Suitable CKD Hybrid For Malaysia
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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 31 (Bernama) -- UMW Toyota Motor Sdn Bhd is continuously discussing with Toyota Motors Corp (TMC) on a suitable Completely Knocked Down (CKD) hybrid model for the Malaysian market.

UMW Toyota Motor President Datuk Ismet Suki said the company had as such not decided on the hybrid model to be assembled here.

"For export of the CKD model, we need to first establish a hybrid CKD base here and then, look at market demand.

"We must also have sufficient volume locally first as far as TMC is concerned.

"We would like to urge the government to extend the hybrid incentive for Completely Built Up (CBU) models to encourage the Malaysian market towards hybrids, build a base for CKD's here, and anything is possible from thereon," Ismet added.

He was speaking to reporters after the launch of the Lexus Kuala Lumpur and Lexus Sungai Besi showroom here today.

On the launch of the latest Lexus 3S centre in Sungai Besi, Ismet said since 2007, Lexus had sold more than 4,300 units with 1,500 units sold last year alone.

"This year, Lexus is expected to sell 1,600 units of the vehicle. Lexus will also be opening three more centres in Ipoh, Kuching and Malacca in the fourth quarter of this year," he added.

The renovated RM5.5 million Lexus Sungai Besi 3S facility is owned and operated by Wing Hin Auto Carriage Sdn Bhd.

The Lexus Kuala Lumpur showroom which solely focuses on sales, started its operations in December last year, and was launched simultaneously with Lexus Sungai Besi.

Lexus is a division of UMW Toyota Motor and has five vehicle models and close to 15 variants in the Malaysian market.

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