



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **MALAYSIA AND QATAR LOOKING AT POSSIBILITIES TO COLLABORATE ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> NATIONAL CAR**

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Following up on the recent visit by the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim Hamad Al-Thani to YAB Prime Minister, Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad on 6 December 2018, YB Datuk Darell Leiking took the opportunity in Davos to have a bilateral meeting with H.E. Ali bin Ahmed Al Kuwari, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Qatar & Mr. Mansoor Ebrahim al-Mahmoud, CEO Qatar Investment Authority on 22 January 2019.

The main objective of the Meeting is to explore the possibility of having Qatar on board Malaysia's 3<sup>rd</sup> national car project. This is to leverage on Qatar's investments in Volkswagen and Audi. Qatar positively welcomed the idea and reiterated on the need to deliberate the details of the joint manufacturing project.

YB Minister also highlighted that Qatar could look at the possibility of collaborating in Malaysia in other parts of the automotive sector such as investment in automotive components or producing electric cars. YB Minister also informed Qatar on the recent launching of the latest Proton Model X70 and Perodua Aruz.

In addition to this, Qatar took the opportunity to update Malaysia on its current investment reforms including the relaxation of foreign investment ownership, of which 100 per cent foreign ownership is now allowed in Qatar in various sectors.

Qatar expressed hope that more Malaysian companies to invest in Qatar. Qatar can be seen as a gateway to the Middle East market and Malaysia as a springboard to the ASEAN market. To this effect, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Malaysia-Qatar Joint Trade Committee Meeting is scheduled to be held on 28-29 March 2019.

Noting the good relationship between Malaysia and Qatar, YB Minister also expressed the possibility of proposing Qatar to be a dialogue partner in ASEAN.

**Ministry of International Trade & Industry**  
24 January, 2019

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MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY

**About MITI:**

MITI is the key driver in making Malaysia the preferred destination for quality investments and enhancing the nation's rising status as a globally competitive trading nation. Its objectives and roles are oriented towards ensuring Malaysia's rapid economic development and help achieve the country's stated goal of becoming a developed nation by 2020.

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