

Weststar gets new senior VP

2012/04/18

Datuk Nik Hamdam Nik Hassan who was said to be one of the prime candidates to lead the new Proton Holdings Bhd management, has actually moved to Weststar Group.

"Most of them journalists got shocked when they saw me in Weststar Group," the former DRB-Hicom Bhd group automotive director told Bernama at the 13th Defence Services Asia (DSA 2012) here today.

The man who has over 25 years of automotive experience with stints in Hicom, Proton as well as Honda, said the news of him going back to Proton was only speculation.

There was a plan to send a team to Proton but not to replace Managing Director Datuk Seri Syed Zainal Abidin Syed Mohamed Tahir, he said.

Hamdam who joined Weststar Group as Group Senior Vice President (Automotive) on March 12, said his forte was more to distribution and product planning while Proton was more into manufacturing, retail distribution and exports.

"So, if I was to be there right now, it is more aligned towards distribution not total," he said.

DRB-Hicom Group Managing Director Datuk Seri Mohd Khamil Jamil is now Executive Chairman of Proton following the completion of DRB-Hicom's acquisition of a 42.7 per cent stake in Proton on March 16.

He had said that a new management team for the national car maker would be announced in two weeks, and it would consist a blend of old and new faces to ensure continuity as well as providing new ideas and talents.

Meanwhile on Weststar Group, Nik Hamdam said the company was exploring oil and gas business as a new potential business venture.

Currently, aviation contributed 60 per cent to the group's revenue while automotive the remaining, he said.

He said 30 per cent of the automotive business came from ministries and government agencies including defence while 70 per cent from the retail business.

"We expect to grow the automotive contribution from the current 40 percent to 60 per cent by 2014," he added. -- Bernama