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# Switch to electric bikes to save on maintenance

PETALING JAYA: Malaysians who want to switch to an eco-friendly two-wheeler can opt for a battery-powered scooter or motorcycle.

Modenas, the national motorcycle manufacturer, will be offering the battery-powered motorcycle, currently referred to as CTRIC. It comes with five batteries to power its 1kw motor.

Modenas chief executive officer Bastaman Hamzah said it would take about three-and-a-half hours to fully charge the motorcycle.

The motorcycle had been put through a rigorous test when the company organised a media test-ride to Gunung Jerai in Gurun, Kedah recently.

According to reports, the motorcycle managed to reach the 1,217m-high mountain with ease.

Another manufacturer, Eclimo Sdn Bhd, will be offering Penan, an electric scooter that uses a rechargeable lithium-ion polymer battery pack.

Eclimo Sdn Bhd CEO Woo Kok Boon said the Penan, could travel up to 100 to 120km at an average speed of 50km/h when fully charged.

"It takes about three-and-a-half hours to fully charge the battery.

"The battery can be recycled at the end of its life span of about 100,000km for use in other applications," he said.

Woo said a special feature of the motorcycle was its braking system which helped to recharge the battery.

The selling point of the motorcycle would be that the ownership cost is 50% less compared with a petrol-powered motorcycle as electric bikes do not need engine oil, air filter and spark plugs, and of course, petrol. – **The Star**