

13 DEC 1996

MAB-Track

MALAYSIAN-GERMAN CONSULTANTS NAMED FOR FORMULA-1 TRACK JOB

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 13 (Bernama) -- Malaysian firm Iktisas Enginieurs Sdn Bhd and well-known German race circuit expert Tilke Ingenieure Fur Umwelttechnik were today named as joint consultants for Malaysia's Formula-1 racing track to be built in Sepang.

The consultancy agreement was signed between the two companies and Malaysia Airports Berhad (MAB), which is undertaking the estimated RM150 million project, at the Prime Minister's Office here.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and MAB chairman Tan Sri Bashir Ismail witnessed the ceremony.

MAB was represented by managing director Datuk Khairuddin Ibrahim and executive director Adnan Shamsuddin.

Tilke was represented by president Hermen Tilke and personnel director Dirk Schneider while Iktisas chairman Azme Idris and deputy chairman Wan Ahmad Nizar Zakaria signed for their company.

The F-1 racing track, the first in the region, will be located 4.5km southwest of the Kuala Lumpur International Airport now being constructed.

Tilke, which has vast experience in Formula One race circuit design and other civil engineering projects, was awarded the consultancy job for the design, management of construction and commissioning of the track and related facilities.

Under the consultancy agreement, Iktisas and Tilke will provide support engineering input on the project. The appointment of Iktisas will allow transfer of technology to Malaysia on the development of other Formula One facilities.

Since October, MAB and the two consultants have developed a master plan for the project which includes a peat swamp wetland forest located next to the circuit.

Apart from F-1 racing, the 5.6km long track would be used for other international and domestic motor sport events such as Formula Three championships.

Malaysia is set to host its first F-1 Grand Prix in 1999.

Dr Mahathir attended the Portuguese Grand Prix in September and met racing mogul Bernie Ecclestone, the president of Formula One Constructors Association, who agreed to Malaysia joining the world circuit and having its inaugural grand prix in three years time.

On Nov 26, the Malaysian government signed a sponsorship agreement with the Stewart-Ford team owned by triple world champion Jackie Stewart. It is the first country in the world to have such a tie-up.

Malaysia will sponsor the Stewart-Ford team at 5.12 million pounds sterling (RM20.5 million) a year for two seasons from next year.

The British team will make its debut at the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne in March with the "Visit Malaysia" emblem displayed prominently on its two cars. -- BERNAMA

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