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"VISIT MALAYSIA" FORMULA ONE CAR UNVEILED IN CENTRAL LONDON

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LONDON, Dec 10 (Bernama) -- With "Visit Malaysia" emblazoned on its rear wing and two similar side displays on its front, the Stewart-Ford Formula One (F1) car, powered by the Ford Zetec-R V-10 engine, was officially unveiled at the Marriott Hotel in central London today.

The car, covered under a specially designed Stewart racing pattern, was unveiled to the sound of Scottish pipes before a gaggle of scrambling press photographers and television cameras.

The car, conceived and delivered within nine months, is believed to be the world's first F1 car designed completely on computer from start to finish.

Team leader Jackie Stewart, a former F1 champion driver, dressed in a Scottish kilt of his homeland, said the sponsorship of the car by Malaysia was a ground breaking event in itself, and was a sign of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's vision.

Malaysia's sponsorship of the Stewart Grand Prix Motor team is believed to be worth 10 million pound sterling a year.

The Stewart-Ford F1 car, which will make its debut at the Melbourne Grand Prix in March, is smaller, lighter and has a lower centre of gravity than its predecessor the Zetec-R V8.

Malaysia's sponsorship of the car is also historic in that this is the first time the government of a country is sponsoring F1 racing. -- BERNAMA

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