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Mahathir launches Indy 40 Enduro go-kart competition

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday launched the Indy 40 Enduro go-kart competition scheduled for August 30 in Langkawi, a day before Malaysia celebrates its 40th independence.

To mark the launching of the go-kart, Dr Mahathir received a challenge trophy, internationally named as the Prime Minister's Cup which was donated by CRG of Italy, a go-kart manufacturer.

CRG president Mr Tinini Giancarlo presented the trophy to the Prime Minister in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

In his speech, Dr Mahathir said through such go-kart competition, it is hoped that Malaysia would be able to produce skilled and internationally recognised racing drivers.

"Even Mr Michael Schumacher, a well known Formula One racer from Germany started with go-kart.

"With the go-kart competition, the motor sports racing can be expanded and further developed in the country.

"This is especially so when Malaysia will be hosting the Formula One racing in 1999.

"We only have a short time to train our racers for the Formula One but we can start training through go-kart. This is a good start," he added.

On the gold and silver coveted Prime Minister's Cup, Dr Mahathir said the challenge trophy will be displayed at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah International Airport in Subang before sending it to Galeria Perdana in Langkawi for safe keeping.

"If there is a need, we will deploy armed security guards to safeguard the gold and silver coveted Cup. I am sure it is safe to keep the trophy in Galeria Perdana," he added.

Dr Mahathir also said he was taken aback when the organiser told him that he will be receiving the gold and silver coveted cup and not what he had initially thought as a go-kart made of gold and silver.

"I thought I heard that the organiser had invited me to receive a go-kart which is made of gold and silver. It will be very interesting to see a go-kart made of gold and silver but now I find that it is merely a gold and silver Cup.

"However, it is a nice cup, bigger than the Thomas Cup which is named after Thomas," he said.

Organised by Mofaz Motorsport Sdn Bhd, the Indy 40 Enduro will be held at the new Morac International Karting Circuit in Langkawi. Forty local corporate teams will participate in the go-kart which is expected to become an annual event to commemorate Malaysia's independence.

Mofaz Motorsport's president Mohamed Fauzy Abdul Hamid said the organiser has reserved five foreign teams to participate in the competition.

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