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Mahathir-Formula

MALAYSIA CAN PRODUCE ABLE FORMULA RACE DRIVERS, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, July 31 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is confident that Malaysia could one day produce Formula One race drivers as good as other international drivers.

The go-kart race in the country would be the starting point to unearth potential talents for the Formula One race and attain a high standard in racing sports in the country, he said after launching the Indy 40 Enduro Go-cart racing event and receiving the Prime Minister Cup, the challenge trophy for the event, here today.

The race organised by MOFAZ Motorsport Sdn Bhd will be held on Aug 30 in Langkawi. Forty teams from various corporations will take part in the race.

Dr Mahathir said that Malaysia was short of time to produce Formula One drivers for the 1999 race in the country, it was nevertheless a good development for the sports in the long term.

"Maybe it is too short a time to produce a good Formula One race drivers for the 1999 but it is a good attempt," he said.

He hoped the go-cart race would be an annual event in conjunction with the National Day celebrations.

Dr Mahathir also called on talented drivers in the country to come forward to represent the country at the international race which was getting world recognition.

MOFAZ Motorsport President Mohamad Fauzy Abdul Hamid said the go-cart race would also be participated by foreign participants including two each from Singapore and Thailand and one from South Korea.

He said the race was organised in line with the call by the Prime Minister to promote go-cart as a popular sport in the country.

--BERNAMA

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