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Test of wills for Merdeka Enduro race entrants

FOUR hours of driving will demand every ounce of strength from competitors taking part in the Merdeka Indy 40 Enduro Kart Championship on Aug 30.

In a race where only the physically and mentally fit are likely to finish, some 40 teams will be racing for prize money amounting to RM100,000 at the Morac International Karting Circuit in Langkawi.

The winners will receive RM40,000, the runners-up RM30,000 while the third and fourth place finishers will win RM20,000 and RM10,000 respectively.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to flag off the event, which is held in conjunction with Merdeka Day celebrations.

Among those taking part will be Keifli Othman who is now leading the Formula Campus single-seater championship.

Other seasoned karters will be 14-year-old Mohamed Fairuz Fauzy who will be driving for Team Foron, veteran racing driver Kan Chee Hong who is fielding Team Kans Power and The National Property Mart-Kes team will be fielding single-seater drivers Adam Lokman and Ben Walsh, and regular karters Azrin Kamaluddin and Rajest S. Gill.

Two teams from Thailand will also be taking part in the event.

The large number of entries - 160 - will make overtaking difficult on race day.

"You will have to wait until the person in front makes a pit stop," said one race official.

"The first few laps will see the group packed tightly together, but midway through the race, some would have retired due to exhaustion or mechanical problems."

Regulations state that no driver shall be allowed to drive more than 40 minutes and there will be designated pit stops.

The karts used for the event will be new Italian-made CRG Pro-Karts which are powered by two Honda 5.5Bhp engines, capable reaching speeds of up to 100kmh.

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