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Dr Mahathir to officiate at GP

Charlotte Venudran

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is scheduled to officiate at the Malaysian leg of the 1998 World Motorcycle Grand Prix at the Johor Circuit in Pasir Gudang on April 19.

Dr Mahathir will also officially open the new facilities at the Sultan Ismail Airport in Senai, which has undergone massive renovation work, on the same day.

State Tourism Committee chairman Datuk Jimmy Low Boon Hong said this yesterday after flagging off the 1998 Motorcross and Cubcross Championship at Felda Ulu Punggeli.

The move was initiated by Malaysia Airport Bhd, which took over as promoters for the Malaysian leg last year.

Low said the Johor Sports Council, together with Johor Tourism Department and Malaysia Airports Bhd, were currently formulating programmes to attract international and domestic tourism in conjunction with the race.

"We are spending some RM5 million to organise various promotional packages for visitors using the Senai airport as their entry point and for those staying in local hotels."

Meanwhile, Low urged Sports Communication Sdn Bhd, which manages the 1.86km motorcross circuit at Felda Ulu Punggeli, to organise more events to garner participation from local motorcycle enthusiasts.

"By having more races, we will not only build motorsports in the State but help keep illegal racing at bay," he said.

A total of 168 local and 38 foreign competitors took part in the 1998 Motocross and Cubcross Championship.

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