

07/10/1999

## Army engineering trainees build two F1 replicas

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The Institut Kejuruteraan Tentera Darat has built two replicas of F1 cars for the Armed Forces Tattoo '99 to be held from Oct 15 to 17.

The car frames are made of fibreglass and the vehicles are run on Proton engines.

Although incapable of attaining the speed of a real F1 machine, their ingenuity in constructing the machines is a matter of pride.

Institut Kejuruteraan Tentera Darat trainees, based in Port Dickson, will demonstrate their skills in assembling the machines during the tattoo which will be held as a side show to the Formula One Grand Prix next weekend.

The tattoo, which was first held in 1963, was an annual event during Malaysia Fest since 1986. It was last held in 1992.

Since then, the event has not been held due to shortage of funds. After a seven-year absence, it will make its return next weekend.

The event will be held at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil on Oct 15 and 17, beginning 8pm, while at the Sepang International Circuit, the tattoo will be held on Oct 16 and 17, beginning 11.15am.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Siti Aishah, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his ministers, are expected to be present on the first day of the event.

The theme of the event is Angkatan Tentera Pada Alaf Baru (the Armed Forces in the New Millennium).

This year the Defence Ministry will fork out about RM3.1 million to organise the tattoo which will see several 'firsts' - the participation of the army's Ceremonial Mounted Unit and the use of Modenas Jaguh motorcycles by its acrobatics team.

Among others, the event features a combined brass band from the Kuala Lumpur City Hall, Fire and Rescue Department and Malaysia Airports Bhd.

The highlight of the tattoo at Bukit Jalil will be the pantomime which chronicles the country's transition from peace to war, before peace is restored.

Armed Forces Tattoo '99 committee chairman Mej Jen Datuk Wahid Annuar said today the tattoo would focus on the armed force's preparedness and capability in carrying out precision moves.

"I can promise that the event will be the most interesting show ever put up by the armed forces," he told reporters before witnessing the tattoo's first rehearsal at the stadium.

Although admission to the tattoo is free, Wahid said the organiser would be handing out coupons to spectators to ensure smooth crowd control.

He advised those interested in watching the tattoo to obtain the free coupons from any Star-LRT station in the city, or at the tattoo secretariat, which would begin operations at the stadium on Oct 10.

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