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Sports-SIC (Tickets)

AVOID LAST-MINUTE RUSH FOR TICKETS, SAYS SIC CHAIRMAN

SEPANG, Oct 7 (Bernama) -- Sepang International Circuit (SIC) chairman Tan Sri Basir Ismail said the tendency among Malaysians to buy tickets at the last minute may be a reason for the slow ticket sales of the Petronas Malaysian Grand Prix among locals.

"For the area for standing spectators, only 5,000 tickets have been sold when it can accommodate 30,000.

"As was the case during the Commonwealth Games last year, the slow ticket sales may be because local fans are adopting a wait-and-see attitude," he said today when commenting on ticket sales for the F1 race to be held at the Sepang F1 circuit.

Basir urged F1 enthusiasts to buy the tickets now as there were only a few days to the prestigious race.

He expressed satisfaction with preparations for the big race day, especially the elaborate programmes for the opening ceremony on Oct 17.

However, there was still room for improvement in terms of event coordination, like timing of performances, he said after watching the second rehearsal for the opening ceremony.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will open the championship.

An estimated 500 million people are expected to watch the opening ceremony which will be beamed live to 260 countries.

Among the performances lined up for the two-and-a-half hour extravaganza starting at 11am are a cultural show, an armed forces tattoo and a parachuting display by 60 Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) personnel.

Other highlights are a vintage car procession and an aerobatic display by the RMAF.

-- BERNAMA

NHZ YBY