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It is more than just the PM's Trophy

THE Proton International 300km Merdeka Race for the Prime Minister's Challenge Trophy (pic) on Sunday is more than just a spin around the Sepang FI circuit for local motor racing enthusiasts.

Winning the coveted Prime Minister's Challenge Trophy will be the ultimate challenge for drivers who harbour dreams of racing in other motor racing arenas.

The PM's Trophy, donated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in 1998, is awarded to the team who win the overall title three times in-a-row.

Due to the daunting task, the PM's Trophy is fast becoming the most sought after by the competitors.

Defending champion Keifli Othman, if he can sort out his license with the Automobile Association of Malaysia, is no exception.

Keifli, the champion in the Proton Putra 1,800cc category of the endurance race last year, was listed alongside novice driver Zureen Zulkifli.

He has won it once and is determined to win it for the second time.

His eagerness is understandable because winning the PM's Trophy is a reflection of a driver's calibre.

Jerry Ng and Allen Tan, the 1997 champions, will give Keifli and his co-driver a run for their money.

For the others, they are just as determined to go for the PM's Trophy even though they will only get the replica for being a first time winner.

Last year's runnerup Kenny Lee, Jimmy Low, Tengku Djan Ley, multinational circuit race champion Kan Chee Hong, Jimmy Low, Zulkifli Hassan and Ng Kok Chin are among the other contenders.

The PM's patronage lends weight to the country's effort to popularise motorsports besides being an endorsement of Proton's tireless efforts to promote the event locally and internationally.

Dr Mahathir will flag off the main race at 2:30pm on Sunday.

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