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Sports-Racing
JOHOR MOTOR CLUB REFORMS EVENT PACKAGES

JOHOR BAHRU, June 10 (Bernama) -- The Johor Motor Club (JMC) has drawn up a major development programme to reform its event packages to meet the demands of the next millennium, its secretary Wan Zaharuddin Ahmad said today.

To meet the new challenges, JMC would include three new races for the 1999 calendar, starting with the Johor Race Series II to be held at the Johor Circuit on June 20.

The new races are Malaysian Super Saloon Challenge, Silverstone Proton Challenge and the Southeast Asia Touring Car Zone Challenge.

The Malaysian Super Saloon Challenge will have several exotic cars with local and foreign participation, including Team Petronas.

The Silverstone Proton Challenge, restricted to Malaysians, will have close to 20 new faces this season. This event, with four categories (1.5cc graded and ungraded and 1.6cc and 1.8cc) will include cars like Proton Wira, Putra, Satria, Saga and Iswara makes at the starting grid.

The South-east Asia Touring Car Zone Challenge has confirmed entries from the Philippines, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia. The organisers are also planning to tie-up with a local television company for more air time for all the three events.

Competitors taking part in the Silverstone Proton Cup 1999 event in the Johor Race Series 11 on June 20 will get added incentives for competing in the event.

Sports Communications Sdn Bhd, promoters of the event at the Johor Circuit, will be offering reduced rates in pit rentals, discounted rates for the purchase of tyres and other benefits. At least 20 drivers have already signed up for the 1.5cc graded and ungraded race.

"The three events will be the best of Malaysian motorsport designed to create a whole dimension. It is imperative for motorsport to shift its focus towards conceiving new ideas to infuse excitement among racing enthusiasts.

"We are confident our efforts will stimulate a wider spectrum for the nation's emerging racing talent. Many of them have proven to be highly competitive individuals," said Wan Zaharuddin.

JMC's development programme is also aimed at providing a communications and interactive stage for all those who are directly or indirectly linked to the motorsport industry.

They include tyre and car manufacturers and companies involved in the petroleum industry.

"Motor racing in Malaysia is definitely gaining ground and later this year the country will host the prestigious Formula 1 race. It is a major boost for Asian motorsport, which is a growing industry.

"Now that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad himself has endorsed, motorsport is set to grow with JMC taking a leading role in the development of motorsport," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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