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Sports-Racing (Proton)

KEIFLI TAKES POLE POSITION IN PROTON INTERNATIONAL

SEPANG, Aug 28 (Bernama) -- Genesis World Racing driver, Keifli Othman is one step away to defend his title when he grabbed the pole position of the Proton International 300km Merdeka Race at the Sepang F1 Circuit, tomorrow.

In today's qualifying session in the field of 77 drivers, Keifli demonstrated his excellent skills to record the fastest lap time of 2:51.275s in the second lap of half-an-hour race lap at the 5.542km circuit.

The 26-year-old professional racer on a Proton Putra 1.8cc together with co-driver Zureen Zulkifli will start as the favourite to clinch the third edition race tomorrow.

However, in today's qualifying session, Zureen only managed to clock 2:53.267s.

But, under the rules of the championships in the qualifying session, only the time of the faster driver in a team will be taken into consideration for the grid position.

"I have a good start today and the set up of the car also looks good. However, it will not be an easy tomorrow because there are many good and experienced drivers like Jimmy Low.

"My only concern is my new partner (Zureen). He has no international experience and this worries me a bit," said Keifli who teammate Sharjihan Gouse last year.

Privateer Nurmad Jusat, who is Firhat Mokhzani's co-driver, registered the second best lap time with 2:51.967s in the afternoon qualifying session today ahead of veteran Jimmy Low with 2:51.999s.

For tomorrow race, each car must be driven by two drivers in the 55 laps, over a distance of 300km.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will flag-off the race.

--BERNAMA

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