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Go-Kart

LANGKAWI INTERNATIONAL GO-KART BACK IN A GRAND MANNER

KUALA LUMPUR, March 1 (Bernama) -- The Langkawi International Go-Kart championship, which was shelved last year, will be held in a more organised and grand manner this year.

The race was temporarily called off as Malaysia was occupied with running a mega sporting event -- the 16th Commonwealth Games.

Now known as the Prime Minister's Cup Indy 40 Enduro Langkawi '99, it offers the richest purse in the history of the sport in Malaysia, totalling RM170,000 with the first prize winner to take home RM40,000 as well as the Prime Minister's challenge cup.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is the patron and key motivator of the programme.

At the soft launch of the event here today, chairman of the organising committee Datuk Abdul Halil Abdul Mutalib, who is also the general manager of the Langkawi Development Authority (Lada), said it will be held at the Morac International Karting Circuit, Langkawi, on Aug 14-15.

"It will be part of the agenda for this year's National Day celebration besides wooing local and foreign tourists to the island," he said.

To make the event a success, Lada, the event provider, sealed a sponsorship agreement today with Mofaz Motorsports and Potential Line Sdn Bhd who will be the main promoter of the championship.

Halil signed on behalf of Lada while Mofaz was represented by its group president, Haji Mohamed Fauzy, and Potential Line Sdn Bhd, by its chief executive officer, Abu Hassan Said.

Halil said: "Our aim is to develop Go-Kart in the country and contribute to projecting Malaysia as an international motorsports venue."

He said that due to the strong response, the organiser would allocate entries strictly on a first-come-first-served basis with a ratio of 50-50 foreign and local participants.

Lada expects at least 20 countries, including Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Britain, Italy, Holland, France, Belgium and USA, to participate.

In 1997, the event attracted 160 drivers representing 40 corporate teams and Kawasaki of Thailand was the overall champion.

-- BERNAMA

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