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Sports-Motorsports

MOTORSPORTS EVENTS LINED-UP PRIOR TO F1 RACE

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 3 (Bernama) -- Motorsports fever in Malaysia is officially on with the launching of the International Motor and Classic Car Show '99 by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi yesterday.

To motorsports fans in the country, the 1999 Petronas Malaysian Grand Prix from Oct 15 to 17 will be the ultimate event.

Beginning this week, the teams' technical crew will begin flying into Malaysia with their heavy and sophisticated machinery through the KL International Airport (KLIA) in Sepang.

Organisers of the Petronas Malaysian Grand Prix, Sepang International Circuit (SIC) and its parent body, Malaysia Airports Berhad (MAB), have in the meantime lined up a fun-filled period of motorsports excitement.

The excitement begins with the International Motor and Classic Car Show at Terminal One, Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang.

A fleet of sports and classic cars is being showcased at the exhibition which will end on Oct 24.

Indoor events are being held and motorsports-related products have been put on sale, said SIC in a statement here today.

On Oct 9, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is scheduled to launch the Malaysian Motorsports Week here in which Dr Mahathir would lead a motorcade from the Petronas Twin Towers to Dataran Merdeka for the launching.

Over at SIC, the Sepang 4x4 Challenge will be staged at its off-road track stretching some 10km of natural terrain.

The track is designed to offer the best in off-roading -- jungle trail, flat desert-like terrain, V-channel crossing, 45 degrees driving, steep up and down hill, log crossing, tunnel passage, mud, water, grass and a rock-filled "rock and roll" terrain for maximum bone shaking driving experience.

The 4x4 off-road track can also be used for rallying and motocross and SIC has big plans next year to promote its latest motorsports attraction.

The Sepang 4x4 Challenge starts on Oct 7 with three days of qualifying and the final on Oct 10.

The two-day Sepang Go-Kart Challenge will take off on Oct 9 at the newly-built SIC go-kart track.

-- BERNAMA

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