

29 SEP 1999
Sports-F1 (Tickets)
NO PLANS TO REDUCE TICKET PRICE - SIC

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 29 (Bernama) -- The Sepang International Circuit (SIC) has no plans to lower the ticket price for next month's Petronas Malaysian Grand Prix despite being able to sell only half of the 92,000 tickets so far.

SIC general manager Hussin Mohd Ali said as of yesterday, only 49,000 tickets worth more than RM30 million were sold.

From this figure, 30,000 were grandstand tickets with the rest being uncovered seats, he said.

"We have never thought of lowering the ticket price despite the slow ticket sales," he told reporters after attending a post-cabinet meeting with Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin here today.

Hussin said any move to lower the ticket price at the last minute would be unfair to the fans who had earlier bought the tickets at original prices.

Hussin said based on studies conducted by the SIC on races held abroad, ticket sales would pick up during the last two weeks prior to the actual event.

"Usually the ticket sales will increase by two or three fold on the weekend before the race and the 49,000 tickets sold so far is normal in any Formula One (FI) races," he said.

Malaysia will create history when it hosts for the first time a FI event, the Petronas Malaysian Grand Prix, the second last leg of the world's most prestigious motorsports showcase apart from the world motorcycle grand prix championship at the SIC from Oct 15 to 17.

However ticket price ranging from RM150 to RM1,400 was said to be too steep for motorsports fans in the country to witness the F1 grand prix event.

Meanwhile Muhyiddin launched the logo for the National Motor Sports Week from Oct 9 to 17, in conjunction with the Petronas Malaysian Grand Prix.

The Motor Sports Week will be launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Oct 9.

Among the highlights of the week is a motorcar procession comprising more than 400 antique and vintage cars at the Merdeka Square.

Several motorsports and car shows will also be staged at Subang Airport's Terminal One, Putra World Trade Centre, Bukit Jalil Stadium and Sepang F1 circuit from Oct 2 to 24.

Muhyiddin said the objective to hold the week was to create the "motorsports" fever among Malaysians as well as boost ticket sales for the Petronas Malaysian Grand Prix.

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