

03 SEP 1999  
Sports-Proton International  
OVERCOME ALL SHORTCOMINGS, SIC TOLD

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 3 (Bernama) -- The organiser of the 300KM Proton International Race, Sepang International Circuit (SIC), was today advised to overcome all shortcomings and safeguard the image of the country as it prepares to host the Formula One Petronas Malaysian Grand Prix at the F1 Sepang Circuit next month.

Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said today the issue over the Merdeka Race held there on Aug 28 and 29 could disrupt preparations for the big world prestigious event.

"I hope all problems will be overcome speedily for if they are blown up they will have an effect on preparations for the Formula One which is only a few weeks away," Muhyiddin told a news conference after flagging off the Malaysian Touring Car International Race here.

Muhyiddin also said he had discussed all relevant matters with the Chairman of Malaysia Airports Berhad Tan Sri Basir Ismail.

"Tan Sri Basir said the SIC had already improved the result system at the circuit," he said.

"Consider this as a lesson so that we will be more careful in future," he said.

The Merdeka Race had caused dissatisfaction among 53 competitors who had sent a petition to the Automobile Association of Malaysia (AAM) urging that the race be repeated.

This was because the time recording system used during the race did not function fully and also over the organiser's move to appoint a competition auditor who allegedly had no experience in motor racing.

The SIC has yet to announce the official results of the Merdeka Run.

Muhyiddin felt that the race should be held once more to satisfy everyone and at the same time, it would afford the opportunity, to test once more the result system that had been installed.

He also said the Cabinet wanted the week before the Formula One Race to be declared as "Malaysian Motor Racing Week".

"The week will be launched on Oct 9 by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and several motor races will be held in the Klang Valley to usher in the big event."

-- BERNAMA  
ZMA AAM