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PM gets a feel of Red Bull Sauber Petronas F1 car

GEARING UP ... Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in the driver's seat of the powerful V10 Red Bull Sauber Petronas C18 F1 car which will take part in the Petronas Malaysian Grand Prix next week.

Watching him are Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin (left) and Malaysia Airports Bhd chairman Tan Sri Basir Ismail (standing).

The Prime Minister last night launched the Malaysian Motorsports Week at Dataran Merdeka, the preamble event to the grand prix at the Sepang F1 Circuit.

The event will see several motorsports activities from motorshows to 4x4 races and is aimed at promoting the sport and F1.

Red Bull Sauber Petronas team drivers Pedro Diniz (right) and Jean Alesi (second from right), who are among the first drivers to arrive for the race, also took part in the opening ceremony.

Diniz had earlier driven the F1 car into the square and also simulated a pit stop tyre change with the team's 17-men pit crew.

Dr Mahathir also led a motorcade of 400 cars from the KLCC to Dataran Merdeka.

The motorcade included several F1 Proton Perdana V6s, Volkswagens, Ferraris, Lotus Elises, the Proton Cabriolet, Proton rally cars and a fleet of vintage cars.

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