

24/02/1999

PM to open Sepang circuit next month

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THE Sepang International Circuit will be officially opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on March 9.

Several Formula One drivers, en route to Europe after the opening Grand Prix in Australia, will also be present at the circuit.

Among the personalities coming to town are World Formula One champion Mika Hakinen of McLaren, Red Bull Sauber Petronas duo Jean Alesi and Pedro Diniz, and Scuderia Ferrari's Eddie Irvine.

Efforts are also being made to get former two-time world champion Michael Schumacher and World Motorcycle champion Michael Doohan for the opening.

Other attractions will include Formula simulators, a parade and fireworks display.

"We really want the crowd to be there and celebrate what will be the start of a new motorsports era for Malaysia and the region," said Sepang International Circuit general manager Hussin Mohamed Ali.

Built at the cost of approximately RM300 million the circuit is now regarded as the best racing track in the world.

SIC will stage the World Motorcycle Championship on April 16, and the penultimate round of this year's World Formula One Championship on October 17.

The opening ceremony starts at 5.0pm and admission is RM5.

Tickets can be purchased at all Music Valley record stores, or call 03-774 6300. Tickets will also be available at the circuit entrance.

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