

26 AUG 2001

Mahathir-SIC

DR M MAKES SURPRISE VISIT TO SIC

SEPANG, Aug 26 (Bernama) -- Some 200 guests gathered at the Sepang International Circuit (SIC) for the signing ceremony to appoint Cahaya Mata Sarawak Berhad as title sponsor for the 2001 Merdeka Millennium Endurance Race were taken by surprise when Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad made an unscheduled visit to the circuit.

The Prime Minister driving a Pajero arrived at the circuit as the guests were adjourning for dinner after the signing ceremony.

"I just dropped by to see what's going on here," a smiling Dr Mahathir told the guests on arrival.

But for those who knew, the visit was to lend moral support to his son Datuk Mokhzani who will be competing in the race.

He spent about an hour at the circuit and signed his name on the Porsche GT3 to be driven by Mokhzani.

Mokhzani will be taking part in the race using a nickname "Jani Che Det". Dr Mahathir is scheduled to give away the prizes.

The MME race series is Malaysia's first ever 12-hour endurance race where the participants - three drivers to a team - are flagged off at midnight and take turns to complete a gruelling challenge to finish the race at noon on Merdeka Day.

Earlier, the SIC signed an agreement with Cahaya Mata Sarawak, appointing the Kuching-based conglomerate as title sponsor for the 2001 edition.

SIC General Manager Ahmad Mustafa represented the circuit while CMSB's Group Operating Officer Albert Chan signed for the company.

CMSB Group General Manager Isaac Lugun and SIC Director Datuk Adnan Shamsudin witnessed the signing.

Founded in 1974 as Cement Manufacturers Sarawak Sdn Bhd, CMSB is currently a diversified group with interests in banking, stockbroking, construction, property development, cement, steel, construction materials and services.

-- BERNAMA

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