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Sports-Racing (Merdeka)

JEFFREY, ADMI AND TOMMY WIN SECOND MERDEKA ENDURANCE RACE

SEPANG, Aug 31 (Bernama) -- The trio of Jeffrey Wong, Admi Shahrul and Tommy Lee, in a TVR Chimaera, won the 2001 Merdeka Millennium Endurance 12-hour race at the Sepang Circuit today.

Competing in the Group A car category, they completed 250 laps on the 5.543km track to take the chequered flag in 12hr 00min 20.130sec in the race which started at midnight last night.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad presented the prizes to the winners.

Later, Dr Mahathir tried out the prototype Proton Waja which came in second in the race. The Proton Waja, driven by Faizal Hakimi, Yeo Tee Eong and Phua Chai Chong, was equipped with a thumbprint-activated ignition start.

The partnership of Faizal, Yeo and Phua, who contested in the Open category, clocked 12:00:35.893s but they were five laps behind the winners.

"We were struggling a bit in the qualifying but we managed to overcome the problems during the race," said Jeffrey.

The win is the second in a row for Tommy who last year partnered local rally ace Karamjit Singh and Jimmy Low in a Proton Pert machine to win the inaugural race.

"Our strategy was to keep pace with the other cars. Endurance race is not purely about sprinting but finding a better position. The strategy we applied paid off," said Tommy.

Admi said it was difficult to get a better position at the beginning because there were many cars.

"But the job became easier as the race progressed, due to the retirement of many teams," he said.

The team of Chin Jit Pying, Gerard Monteiro and Rocky Siow, who drove a Subaru GTi in the Group A category, finished third when they registered 12:02:07.509s after completing 241 laps.

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