

28 JAN 2001

Sports-Go-Kart

MALAYSIA TO HOST GO-KART WORLD FINALS NEXT YEAR

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 28 (Bernama) -- Malaysia has overcome a challenge from two other bidding countries to win the right to host the Go-Kart Rotax Max Challenge World Finals in Langkawi next year.

In launching the prestigious event here today, Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein said it was a global recognition for Malaysia and an opportunity to turn the country into a motorsport paradise.

Hishammuddin represented Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the launching ceremony at the Fast Track Speed Zone Go-Kart Circuit in Sungai Penchala near here.

Dr Mahathir is the patron of the event to be held from Jan 21 to 27 at the Morac International Kart Circuit (MIKC) in Langkawi, with the participation of 33 countries.

Hishammuddin hoped that Malaysian go-karters would take the opportunity to hone their skills in the sport and eventually be skilful enough to export their talents to other international races.

Meanwhile, Mofaz group president Mohamed Fauzy Abdul Hamid said Malaysia won the right to host the world finals next year over Australia and the United Arab Emirates.

He said Langkawi was picked by Rotax Max Challenge, the rights holder for the championship, as the island had the facilities to stage the go-kart event.

Mohamed Fauzy said each of the 33 participating nations would field three drivers who won their country's national challenges.

In Malaysia, the first national national challenge will kick off on March 31 and the final round will be held in MIKC on Sept 15.

Mohamed Fauzy said it would cost around RM2 million to stage the world finals in Langkawi.

At today's ceremony, Hishammuddin also presented two scholarship awards, worth RM150,000 each from Morac International Karting Circuit Sdn Bhd to Nik Iruwan Nik Izani and Mohd Rohairijaz Mat Ropin.

Present was Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir.

-- BERNAMA

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