

08/12/2001

PM urges support from local corporations

Zakri Baharudin

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad urged local corporations to support the Rotax World Go-Kart Finals to be held in Langkawi on Jan 21-27.

At a meeting with the event organisers Mofaz and potential sponsors at his office in Putrajaya yesterday, Dr Mahathir said: "As it (the Finals) is an international event, we cannot afford to have this fail, because in the process, Malaysia will gain in terms of good publicity and knowledge about motor racing.

"The event can only be a success if it gets support from everyone concerned."

A total of 76 karters from 54 countries are confirmed to take part in the Finals to be held at the 1.2km Morac International Circuit in Langkawi.

Malaysia will be represented by seasoned drivers Ferhan Fauzy, Raja Razman Idris and Martin Druhan from Australia.

Druhan, an expatriate who has been living in Kuala Lumpur for almost a decade, qualified for the Finals as the best placed over 35-year-old karter in the Malaysian Max Challenge.

Ferhan and Razman, who represented Malaysia in the inaugural Finals in Puerto Rico last year, made the grade after they ended top-two in the Max Challenge.

In building up the campaign, Dr Mahathir also encouraged Malaysian karters to make sure they finish in the best overall position. "The drivers must put everything into their training. They should train very hard.

"I hope our drivers will behave like the Tour de Langkawi cyclists, who sleep at the right time, eat the right food, don't drink (alcohol) and are very dedicated (to their sport).

"I hear some of them even take their bicycles to their hotel rooms, but I'm not asking our karters to do this. That just shows how much they love their sport.

"But doing it often enough (training) it will eventually become second nature."

zark@nstp.com.my

(END)