

10 MAR 2001

Sports-F1 (Tickets)

SIC CONFIDENT OF IMPROVING TICKET SALES

SEPANG, March 10 (Bernama) -- Sepang International Circuit (SIC), the organiser of the Petronas Malaysian Grand Prix (GP) 2001, is confident of selling the remaining 60,000 tickets for the event by next Sunday.

Its general manager Azmi Murad said he is confident that the SIC would be able to achieve this target despite the race being only seven days away.

"The ticket sale is picking up, but it is still low as compared to that of last year's. However I am optimistic that 90,000 tickets will be sold.

"The encouraging performance by the two Sauber (Petronas) drivers at the season opener in Melbourne last week is another factor which can pull the local fans to the race," he said.

Azmi was met at the Sepang F1 Circuit after the full dress rehearsal for the Petronas Malaysian GP 2001 here today.

In the Australian GP, Sauber-Petronas' Nick Heidfeld and Kimi Raikkonen finished fourth and sixth respectively to earn the team four points.

The slow ticket sale, which only reached 30,000 tickets so far, has prompted the SIC to cancel the live telecast of the Petronas Malaysian GP through local television stations.

Malaysia will host the 2nd leg of the 17-round World F1 Championship on March 16-18.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will flag-off the race on March 18.

-- BERNAMA

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