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Petition to be submitted after Raya

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THE end of Ramadhan and the festive season has brought to a standstill the campaign to save the Batu Tiga circuit in Shah Alam, and it looks likely that petitions carrying signatures of the scores of backers will only be submitted to the Prime Minister after the Hari Raya Aidilfitri break.

About 800 signatures from the motorsports fraternity now back the efforts and calls for the Batu Tiga circuit to be saved in a campaign which was launched early last month.

However, according to International Motorcycling Federation (FIM) medical commission vice president Dr. K. Kanagalingam, fixing an appointment with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad during the current festive period is very difficult.

"We will hopefully manage to fix an appointment after Hari Raya. This gives us some time to get as many signatures as possible. I hope we can get more than a thousand by the time we are ready to hand the petitions in," said Dr. Kanagalingam.

Dr. Kanagalingam said he is still awaiting the petitions from the Perlis Motor Sports Club (PsMSC) and the Royal Perak Motorsports Club (RPMC), who have pledged their support for the campaign.

Apparently, some complications have delayed the arrival of the RPMC's petitions which were said to have been couriered to Kuala Lumpur two weeks ago. Dr. Kanagalingam hopes the glitch would be solved soon.

Thus far, according to Dr. Kanagalingam, the FIM have sent a letter of appeal to the Prime Minister, Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein and Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr. Mohd Khir Toyo, which submits their views on why the Batu Tiga circuit should remain.

FIM is concerned for the loss of a motorsports venue and particularly, a circuit which has served well the sport of motorcycling and one that can continue to serve as a vital platform for the development of motorsports.

Besides PsMSC, RPMC and the FIM, the campaign to save the Batu Tiga circuit is also supported by the Penang Motorsports Club (PMC), the Johor Motor Club, the Automobile Association of Malaysia (AAM) and the German Motorcycling Federation (DMSB).