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Petition to be submitted to PM next week

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THE petition to save the Batu Tiga circuit will be handed to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad by the end of next week.

Two Wheels Motor Racing Sdn Bhd managing director Sam Hogg, who along with International Motorcycling Federation medical commission vice president Dr K. Kanagalingam, initiated the campaign, said the only hope is that Dr. Mahathir will help motorsport with his support.

"We have done our part. Although there are some people who doubt that, we are just giving it a try for the sake of motorsports.

"All we want is for the circuit to remain for the benefit of motorsports," said Hogg.

"But it is in the hands of the Selangor Government and at the end of the day, they have the power. We can just try our best to convince them that the circuit is vital for motorsports," said Hogg.

The campaign, supported by the Perlis Motor Sports Club (PsMSC), the Kedah Motorsports Club (KMC), the Royal Perak Motorsports Club (RPMC), the Johor Motor Club (JMC), the Automobile Association of Malaysia (AAM), the FIM and the German Motorcycling Federation (DMSB), was initiated a month ago.

The Batu Tiga circuit, established in 1968, was the first international class racing circuit to be built in the country.

In March, Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Khir Toyo announced that due to the failure of the circuit's management to settle rent and taxes, the Selangor State Development Board (PKNS) had decided to develop the area.

The grassroots level will be the hardest hit with beginners having no option but to start their racing careers at the Formula One class Sepang Circuit, something that the motorsports fraternity argues, isn't suitable.