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In search of the right `antidote'

Zakri Baharudin

MALAYSIA'S blueprint on the future development of motorsports will take form in the first part of the inaugural Motorsports Convention to be held at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Kuala Lumpur beginning 8am, today.

Jointly organised by the Sports Ministry, the Automobile Association of Malaysia (AAM) and Sepang International Circuit (SIC), the Convention will discuss everything related to motorsports, covering go-karts, dirt bikes and circuit racing to 4x4 expeditions.

To be launched by Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein, who will deliver the key-note address, the eight-hour seminar is open to all parties related to the local motorsports scene; including drivers, riders, veterans, racing teams, mechanics, sponsors, clubs, associations, academicians and government and corporate agencies.

The three main topics to be discussed come under the headings `Development of Facilities', `Programmes, Activities and Talent Development' and `Technical Development and the Role of NGOs.'

Among the speakers are chairman of Petronas Tan Sri Azizan Zainul Abidin, whose presentation is entitled `Engine Development - F1', AAM president Tunku Mudzaffar Tunku Mustapha (Technical Development of Motorsports), Datuk Mokhzani Mahathir (Racing School Development), Johor Corporation chief executive Tan Sri Muhammad Ali Hashim (The Need to Develop Facilities in States), Datuk Razak Dawood of the Pert rally team (Development of Motorsport Activities), and SIC's general manager Ahmad Mustafa (Development of Motorsport Facilities).

Of particular interest, a representative from the Ministry of International Trade and Industries (Miti) will also discuss issues relating to import duties of motorsports parts and equipments.

With an aim to ignite efforts in creating an effective and workable system for grassroots development, the Convention is motivated by the Government's Eight Malaysia Plan to develop sports to the highest level.

The findings from today's event will serve as a basis for the international version of the Convention to be held prior to the Petronas Malaysian F1 Grand Prix on March 17-19.

zark@nstp.com.my

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