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Race promoter di San Germano all praises for local organisation

WITH a worldwide television audience from 170 million homes viewing the Formula Powerboat Malaysian Grand Prix in Seri Kembangan yesterday, it was a success and Malaysia has done well yet again in event organisation.

International Motorboat Union (UIM) promoter Nicolo di San Germano said, although the crowd turnout was less than that of last year's race in Johor, the sale of television rights alone has made the Mines Resort City a viable venue to be granted a permanent race site status.

"Definitely, the turnout was less than what we had in Johor last year. But unfortunately, right now television rights also play a role in ensuring the success of this event," said di San Germano.

"On the other hand was the magnificent organisation of the event. And I have told people that Malaysia is like the university of events organisation. This, I say with 30 years of experience in organising international events.

"Malaysia is the best place to organise events because of the support and enthusiasm at every level, from the Government right down to the people it has been great," said di San Germano.

After a discussion with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein and Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir, di San Germano said next year's Malaysian Grand Prix has been scheduled for September.

"This is because, according to them, there are too many big events going on in August and we have agreed to move the Grand Prix to late September," said di San Germano.

"We want to have the race in Malaysia and it won't be a problem having it in September. And we also discussed matters concerning the marketing of Malaysia's tourism industry which could be done through powerboats," he added.

"I also told them that I hope to see Simon Saw in every leg next season. We want to see him in all races," said di San Germano, referring to Malaysia's sole wildcard entry in the Malaysian Grand Prix.