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Sports-Motorsports  
SPECIAL PREVIEW OF MERDEKA MOTORSPORTS CARNIVAL

KUALA LUMPUR, July 22 (Bernama) -- Racing fans will have a sneak preview of the inaugural Merdeka Motorsports Carnival when Sepang International Circuit officially launches the third edition of its 12-hour racing sensation - Merdeka Millennium Endurance (MME) race - at Dataran Shah Alam on Saturday.

Unlike the previous events, the 2002 MME race will feature supporting events at the Sepang Go-Kart Circuit, the Sepang Motocross Circuit and the Sepang Off-Road Park, with all the events being incorporated under Merdeka Motorsports carnival.

"We are planning to make the Merdeka Motorsports Carnival as an annual event and serve as a platform to gather the country's motorsports fraternity and its fans in Sepang to celebrate Merdeka," said press officer for Sepang International Circuit Azhar Ghazali.

Apart from performances by top local artistes, fans at the official launch will be treated to a special performance of stunt driving, motocross, 4x4 and go-kart racing.

"All these events will be featured at the real events in Sepang. And being a non-stop affair for more than 24 hours, we would also be organising a carnival, lucky draws, fun and games at the circuit to keep the spectators entertained throughout."

"For the grand launch, we are also inviting some of the teams from all the disciplines to be at Dataran Shah Alam, where we are organising a mini-carnival. We are looking forward to see local racing fans and their families at the launch," added Azhar.

For the actual event, the organisers had also expanded the Merdeka Millennium Endurance event to include two Classic Car races and the Formula 3 Asia Championship as supporting events.

Prizes will be presented by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is the guest-of-honour on Merdeka Day.

While events at the main track will actually start from Aug 29, with qualifying and practice sessions for the MME and its support races, activities at the go-kart, motocross and the off-road tracks begin on Aug 30.

"There will be plenty of activities at the respective areas. We will keep members of the public informed of the events as well as the supporting activities from time to time," said Azhar.

Another highlight of the off-track activities will be Motorsports Night where Sepang International Circuit is arranging a special dinner in honour of officials, sponsors and racing personnel that have supported its programmes to promote Malaysian motorsports.

Tickets for MME race are priced at RM20 and are already on sale at the circuit. They can also be purchased by calling TICKET HOTLINE 03-8526 2222 or by e-mail at [ticket@malaysiangp.com.my](mailto:ticket@malaysiangp.com.my).

The circuit is also opening camping grounds within the track premises to allow racing fans to enjoy the event throughout at an additional charge of RM10 per person

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