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Sneak preview of Merdeka Carnival

FANS will get a sneak preview of the inaugural Merdeka Motorsports Carnival when organiser Sepang International Circuit (SIC) officially launches the third edition of the 12-hour Merdeka Millennium Endurance at Dataran Shah Alam on Saturday.

Unlike previous years, the 2002 race will also feature a list of supporting events at the Sepang Go-Kart Circuit, the Sepang Motocross Circuit and the Sepang Off-Road Park.

"Named as the `Merdeka Motorsports Carnival', the annual event will serve as a platform to gather Malaysia's motorsports fraternity and its fans in Sepang to celebrate Merdeka," said SIC Press officer Azhar Ghazali in a statement.

"Apart from entertainment shows by local artistes, the official launch will also feature special performances, including stunt driving, motocross, 4x4 and go-kart racing.

"And being a non-stop affair lasting more than 24 hours, we would also be organizing a carnival, lucky draws, fun and games at the circuit to keep spectators entertained.

"For the launch, we are inviting teams from all categories to gather at the Dataran Shah Alam for our mini carnival."

For the actual event, the organiser has also expanded the Merdeka Millennium Endurance event to include two Classic Car races, while the Asian Formula Three will serve as a supporting event.

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

Events at the main track will kick off on August 29 with the qualifying and practice sessions. Activities at the go-kart, motocross and the off-road tracks begin on August 30.

Tickets for the Merdeka Millennium Endurance race, which are on sale at the circuit, are priced at RM20 each.

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