

Mokhzani to keep on racing for a podium finish

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BY AUDREY EDWARDS

PETALING JAYA: His father raises his eyebrows every time he mentions his racing pursuits and neither his mother nor mother-in-law has taken a fancy to his preoccupation.

Jaseri Auto Eurokars executive chairman Datuk Mokhzani Mahathir, however, has declared that he will race until his lifetime ambition of a podium finish is realised.

He will be taking the Sepang F1 Circuit bends and straights this weekend at breakneck speeds with that and some charity in mind.

The Crest Jaseri Racing Team comprising Mokhzani, former Formula One driver Alex Yoong and Asian Formula 2000 team founder Faizal Hakimi Jaafar will be raising funds through a minimum RM1 per lap pledge from corporations and the public during the Merdeka Millennium Endurance (MME) Race 2003.

The charities that will benefit from the effort are the Malaysian Liver Foundation, Thalassemia Association of Malaysia

and Rumah Anak Yatim Bangi.

"People can pledge a minimum of RM1 for every lap that we complete. The response has been quite good and the highest pledge so far is RM50 per lap," said Mokhzani yesterday.

They will be racing a Porsche 911 GT3 Cup during the 12-hour endurance that begins at 10am on Aug 30.

Mokhzani, the third child of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr

Mahathir Mohamad, said that his father would raise his eyebrows whenever he mentioned racing.

"He thinks I do crazy things at the track when I drive the cars but he would rather I do it on the track. My mother (Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali) and mother-in-law just don't want me to race," he added.

However, Mokhzani said that he would continue racing until he got a podium placing.

"Maybe then, I'll stop racing and manage a team," he said urging Malaysians to watch the race, which was a "home grown product".

Mokhzani said that the idea to race for charity began when he started racing in the MME in 2000.

Realising that they were not going to be very competitive, they decided to make it a fund-raising effort for charity.

To pledge your donation, contact Radziwill Mohamad or Gary Khor of the Crest Jaseri Racing Team at 03-5032 9000 or fax 03-5032 9393 or email radziwill@eurokars.com.my or gary_khor@yahoo.com.