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Sports-MME

ALEX YOONG AIMS A PODIUM FINISH FOR CREST JASERI RACING TEAM

SEPANG, Aug 25 (Bernama) -- Malaysia's first Formula One driver, Alex Yoong, is confident of bringing the Crest Jaseri Racing team to a podium finish in the 12-hour Merdeka Millenium Endurance (MME) race when the event flag offs at the Sepang Internaional Circuit on Aug 30.

"I do believe we have a good chance of winning the event though competition is tough...we will be running a reliable car and I was surprised by its performance during the test," said Yoong today.

"I am very happy to be on board with the Crest Jaseri Racing team and especially so when the fun is coupled with doing something good for charity," he added.

Crest Jaseri Racing team, also comprising Datuk Mokhzani Mahathir and Faizal Hakimi Jaafar, will be powered by a 390hp Porsche GT3.

According to Alex, during his practice last week, he pushed the car to the maximum and clocked 2 minutes 19 seconds per lap, on par with the current Asia Porsche Carrera Cup pole time.

"The car is fantastic and I believe we will be able to get to the podium," he added.

Meanwhile, teammate Faizal Hakimi, a former Formula 2000 racer, said that the inclusion of Alex in the team would boost its chances of winning the race and his contributions overall were invaluable.

The Crest Jaseri Racing team has two missions in the MME race this year -- firstly, to win the race and, secondly, to do charity.

Donations of a minimum RM1 per lap completed in the 12-hour race will go towards the Malaysian Liver Foundation, the Thalassemia Association of Malaysia and the Bangi Orphanage.

The team is targetting to raise RM260,000 and the amount will be divided equally among the three organisations.

-- BERNAMA

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