

19 DEC 2003

Sports-Motorsports (MSS)

LOCAL MOTORSPORTS CAN'T SURVIVE IF INDISCIPLINE CONTINUES, SAYS

MOKHZANI

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 19 (Bernama) -- Malaysia's motorsports cannot survive if many of the drivers and their crew choose to continue to be indisciplined, said Sepang International Circuit (SIC) Chairman Datuk Mokhzani Mahathir.

"The negative attitude adopted by many of the current drivers and their teams crew was unfortunate as the government and its partners were working hard to develop the sport in this country," he said in his speech read out by SIC General Manager Ahmad Mustaffa at the 2003 Malaysian Super Series Championship (MSS) prize giving ceremony here tonight.

The MSS which was introduced last year by SIC is aimed at developing motorsports in Malaysia by providing more competition for local drivers and racing teams.

He noted that discipline was the key for success but unfortunately the lack of discipline among drivers and their crew members was clearly evident at this year's race.

Highlighting a simple ruling barring smoking in the pits and the pitlane, he said that there were many drivers and crew members seen to be smoking freely and ignoring the rule designed for safety.

While commending on the commitment of the competitors in MSS, Mokhzani said it needed further changes and approach to be more exciting.

"We need to continue maintaining this kind of enthusiasm and spirit of competitiveness among the participants. The series obviously needs some changes," he said.

Meanwhile the Supersixteen champion, Eddie Lew said that his domination of the just-concluded series would open new doors for him to pursue his racing career internationally.

"My aim now is to compete in the Asian Touring Car Championship and to challenge for the Supercar Championship. It's only rational that I try out on a bigger agenda like the Supercar and the international level," he said.

Eddie, 30, was the winner of the inaugural Proton Satria GTI national title two years ago and a long list of other titles that includes a class win Sepang's 12-hours Merdeka Millennium Endurance race in 2001.

At the 2003 MSS, Eddie won five out of the six rounds that he participated this season in the battle of 1600cc machines and secured the overall title with one more round to go with a massive 115 points.

"I hope to follow Albert Poon. Event at 70, he is still racing and winning," said Eddie of the veteran Hongki, who is regular at Shah Alam and Pasir Gudang, Johor circuit.

#### OVERALL STANDING

SUPERCAR - Jimmy Low (Honda Civic)

SUPERSIXTEEN - Eddie Lew (Honda Civic)

PROTON SATRIA GTI - Faidzil Alang

PROTON PRODUCTION 1800cc - Hafizy Hafiz

PROTON PRODUCTION 1600cc - Suresh Adekkapachi

PRODUCTION BIKE - Iswan Azim Salihin

SUPERBIKE (OPEN) - Brent Odgers

SUPERBIKE (NOVICE) - Choong Chee Leong

-- BERNAMA

FA AT ABG

