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Sports-F1

MALAYSIAN F1 GRAND PRIX ORGANISERS MUST KEEP UP PACE - MOKHZANI

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 18 (Bernama) -- The 2004 Petronas Malaysian Formula One Grand Prix organisers were reminded to be ready and not be complacent in preparing for the country's premier race.

Chairman of the Sepang International Circuit (SIC) Datuk Mokhzani Mahathir said they should not take anything for granted following the successes of the last five Grand Prix events.

"The country had built a very good reputation in hosting the event successfully over the years. Since organising the event involves national pride, we should not be complacent," said Mokhzani after chairing the first organising committee today.

The 2004 Malaysian Grand Prix, the second leg of the world championship, would be held at the Sepang Circuit from March 19-21. The Formula One new season kicks off in Melbourne, Australia on March 7.

Mokhzani who replaced Tan Sri Basir Ismail last month, recognised the need for traffic flow management to be further improved.

"Traffic was an issue at this year's F1. We need to ensure a better traffic management system for 2004," he said.

SIC also pledged to provide a F1 car for the medical and extradition team for their use during training in preparations for the event.

Chief medical officer Dr Mohd Zin Bidin highlighted the team's difficulties in their exercise as they were only provided with the FIA extradition cockpit for training, five days before the race.

"To train with an actual F1 car will be very good for the team. It will definitely boost their morale and spirit during training," he said.

It was also decided that the military air show which treats spectators to a spectacular air show from six F-8 fighter jets, would go on.

He commended the Multimedia and Telecommunications Commissions for their superb handling of telecommunications during the event which later earned praise from the FIA, the World Governing Body for FI.

During the events, 600 pairs of frequencies were provided for the F1 teams and officials. They did not face any transmission interferences all these years.

The Immigration Department had agreed to provide two exclusive lanes for the F1 community during GP to ensure hassle-free entry at the KLIA.

Meanwhile, Mokhzani also briefed the meeting of the government's reprieve on tobacco advertising at the Sepang Circuit. Cigarette sponsors and tobacco companies are free to put up their advertisements in the circuit.

-- BERNAMA

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