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Sports-Motoring (MME)

SIC SUGGESTS SPLIT IN MME NEXT YEAR

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 21 (Bernama) -- The Sepang International Circuit (SIC), organisers of the Merdeka Millennium Endurance (MME) race, will study the feasibility of creating two categories for next year's race.

Its chairman, Datuk Mokhzani Mahathir, said this was necessary as the differences between the categories A,B,C and O, were too disparate and could be dangerous.

MME classification means that cars of more than 1800cc are in Class A, from 1601 to 1800cc in Class B and below 1600cc in Class C, while the Open (Class O) is for modified cars.

"In future, if racers in Class O and A increase, we may split the event into two, for high speed and performance cars and cars with lower capacity," he said.

The proposal was due to the increasing number of participants and greater response to MME in each preceding year and to avoid accidents, he told a press conference on live telecasts by Radio Television Malaysia at the International Broadcasting Centre here today.

He said the top speed in Class O was about 260km per hour compared to cars in Class B, like Proton Satrias, which only ran at a maximum of 160 to 170km per hour.

"The difference of some 100km an hour is a big problem, especially for Class B and C drivers who may be less experienced or less skilled in racing in competitive situations," he said.

Mokhzani said 92 cars had registered to participate but only 77 would be accepted, following a qualifying session on Aug 29, according to Federation Internationale de l'Automobile rules.

The MME race offers total cash prizes of RM150,000 and the winner will receive RM30,000 cash.

The MME will also be telecast live starting 10am on Aug 30.

-- BERNAMA

RAF AHH EMK SRI