

19/12/2004

60,000 throng Proton Track Carnival

THE Proton Track Carnival at Sepang on Dec 5-6 drew some 60,000 visitors.

The crowds thronged the circuit as early as nine in the morning to participate in the various activities.

The event was officiated by Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad who drove the new Satria R3 around the South Circuit with Proton Holdings Bhd CEO Tengku Mahaleel in the passenger seat.

The carnival saw various activities that did not concentrate solely on motorsports as there were events for all the family.

Some of the motorsport events were Street Shoot Out (SSO) Hypertune Drift challenge, SSO Time Attack challenge, motorcycle challenge, auto-salon, precision driving challenge and a go-kart race.

The highlight was the Enduro Battle, held on Saturday night. The Enduro Battle for Class B racers (Proton cars below 1,600cc) started at 8pm while the Class A racers (Proton cars from 1,601cc to 1,800cc) started around 10.30pm. The race was basically an endurance race that required the cars to complete 85 laps around the South Circuit.

In the afternoon, the racers participated in a Sprint Battle challenge where they raced to determine their grid position for the Enduro Battle. This one-day race format is a change from the previous event in Pasir Gudang where both races were held over two days.

The South Track enabled the spectators to see the whole circuit - one got to see the drama happening at the back straights and hairpin turns.

While all the racing was done on the South Circuit, the other activities were held in the Mall area or the North Track. These included Proton car test-drives, firework show, games and commercial fest.

A concert in the evening saw artists like Erra Fazira, Def-Gab-C and Nana entertain the crowd until midnight. The concert continued with a Velocity party where three top deejays showed their skills.

The carnival was organised by Proton Motorsports Division, better known as the R3 (Race, Rally and Research).

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