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Lack of drivers for Merdeka Millennium Endurance race

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Illegal racing in the city may soon be a thing of the past with the increasing demand for drivers in racing events such as the Merdeka Millennium Endurance (MME) race.

Sepang International Circuit chairman (SIC) Datuk Mokhzani Mahathir said the latest development in this year's MME race, scheduled for Aug 30, was the shortage of racing drivers.

He said although there was an increase in the number of teams entering the race this year, many teams were unable to register due to the unavailability of drivers.

Speaking at the launch of the MME Carnival at Menara KL here today, he said: "This is good news as there will be a greater opportunity for young racing enthusiasts to become professional drivers.

"The MME has shown its potential for helping the SIC achieve its objective of building a new motorsport culture among Malaysians."

He said 100 teams had applied to enter the 12-hour endurance race but only 92 had been registered.

He said the roaring start of 77 racing cars for the MME will also serve as a perfect start to the National Day celebrations.

Kuala Lumpur Datuk Bandar Datuk Mohamad Shaid Mohd Taufek, in his speech, said the MME, which is into its fourth edition this year, had become Malaysia's biggest motorsport event, attracting international participants.

"I understand the MME has helped in the creation of more racing teams, especially from the Klang Valley. Through the educational programmes and various driving programmes by SIC and its partners, we hope to make city streets and highways free of illegal racing."