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Last saviour - Prime Minister

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A last ditch effort to save the Batu Tiga Circuit in Shah Alam now depends on whether Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will support its preservation.

International Motorcycling Federation (FIM) medical commission vice-president Dr K. Kanagalingam said the campaign to save the circuit has been backed by 1,000 signatures of people involved in the local motorsports scene.

The campaign, which began in October last year, showed that there was nationwide and international concern over the fate of the circuit which was built in 1968.

Regarded as a vital starting point in motorcycling, FIM medical commission president Hans Robert Kreutz has also described the circuit as the third best in the world behind Suzuka, Japan and Laguna Seca in the United States.

As such, Dr Kanagalingam said he is still trying to secure an appointment with Dr Mahathir for the handing over of the petition, gathered by motorsports clubs from around the country.

"We are trying to make that appointment and hand the Prime Minister our petitions and hopefully it can happen soon. Then, we can only hope that Dr Mahathir supports the effort to save the Batu Tiga Circuit," said Dr Kanagalingam.

The campaign to save the Batu Tiga Circuit is backed by the Automobile Association of Malaysia (AAM), the Penang Motorsports Club (PMC), the Johor Motor Club (JMC), the Perlis Motor Sports Club (PsMSC), the Royal Perak Motorsports Club (RPMC), the Kedah Motorsports Club (KMC), the German Motorcycling Federation (DMSB) and the FIM.

Earlier, FIM had sent a letter of appeal to Dr Mahathir, Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein and Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Khir Toyo in November.

The circuit was slated for demolition when it was deemed not viable to run after its current management Batu Tiga Speedway Circuit (BTSC) were unable to settle various bills which amounted to a RM25 million loss for the Selangor State Development Board (PKNS).