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Malaysian dream on board Jaseri's Porsche

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THE Jaseri Racing Team aims to become part of a Malaysian dream when it competes in Round One of the Porsche Carrera Cup Asian Championship - a support race for the Petronas Malaysian Formula One Grand Prix on March 21-23.

The year-old team, run by chairman Datuk Mokhzani Mahathir, has established saloon car racer Tommy Lee as its only driver for the time being.

"Tommy has a proven track record and we decided to back him since he was successful from day one. Our main aim is to bring in more young drivers in the future but for now, we will start with Tommy even if he isn't so young," said Mokhzani in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

On the challenge that lies ahead, Lee, 35, said he wasn't worried about the prospect of running alone against the Naza team, who are expected to run a two-pronged challenge with former teammate Nigel Albon being one of them.

"It will be a strong field but I am aiming to be among the podium finishers in every race. They are top drivers and I expect fair driving and not too much dirty tactics," said Lee.

In future, the team may be extended to have two or more drivers with Lee as the role model, as the main aim is to develop an entirely Malaysian team capable of top class management.

"The team was formed only last year and we are building it slowly because we also want to build the management of the team. We want this to be a good Malaysian motorsports team, be it the drivers or the management," he said.

In a touching show of support, Lee is followed into his Porsche adventure by the sponsors Transmile Air Cargo, who backed him to the Proton Satria GTi championship last year.

Lee also received a welcome surprise when the Federation of Automobile Associations Malaysia (FAAM) named him top saloon car driver for 2002.

Lee has won the Merdeka Millenium Endurance (MME) three times in 2000, 2001 and last year, all with different teams, different cars and different teammates.

On the team's plans, Mokhzani said they are also studying the possibility of competing in the Malaysian Super Series (MSS) Supercar championship, besides being committed to the Porsche Carrera Asian Championship and the MME.

"We have two cars. One is a 2001 unit and another a 2003 unit. The 2003 unit will be running in the Porsche Carrera Asian Championship and the other in the MME and possibly other local races," said Mokhzani.