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## Roaring success

AMID the tensions of war in Iraq, the success of the Formula One race in Sepang is one more reason for Malaysians to be thankful for the peace we enjoy. There were fears the Iraqi situation may keep spectators away. As it turned out, they were unfounded. Spectators, both local and foreign, turned out in force to cheer the drivers. The Malaysian Grand Prix concluded without a hitch, except for a problem over transportation. But this is a hiccup that can be put right the next time F1 comes around.

As Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad observed, the huge crowd of some 100,000 from various countries was proof that Malaysia is a safe place. This gives the lie to the negative advisories issued by some countries recommending that their nationals stay away from Malaysia and the region. Unfortunately, some foreigners who are keen motor enthusiasts were influenced by the advisories and chose not to come.

However, there were many others who shrugged it off to come for the Grand Prix. Hopefully, the visitors, besides coming for the F1, also took the opportunity to visit the country's various tourist attractions. They will find that despite, and because of, its Muslim majority, Malaysia is a moderate nation and its people abhor violence. Foreign visitors need not fear going to crowded places. We believe that those who were at the Sepang F1 will be back next time, and bring along with them many new faces.