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Zin's classic car bags overall prize

Sujatani Poosparajah; Zulita Mustafa

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - The Malaysian Classic & Vintage Cars Concourse 2003 saw more than 120 cars worth over RM20 million participating in the competition held at Dataran Merdeka today.

Sepang International Circuit organised the competition for the first time, in conjunction with the Petronas Formula One Malaysian Grand Prix on March 21-23.

Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin presented trophies to winners of the various categories.

Overall champion and first place winner in the Vintage Class category was Mohd Zin Min, whose 1934 Lagonda was the oldest car in the competition.

Zin said he hoped his win would kindle a passion for vintage cars in the younger generation.

"Hopefully in the future, more vintage cars will be seen on the roads," he said.

Zahari Mohd Nor clinched first prize in the Classic category with his 1962 Bentley. Stockbroker Ong Kheng Liat won first prize in the Modern Classic category with his 1968 Mercedes Benz 600. "It's been a labour of love," Ong said.

The Vintage category was for cars manufactured before 1941, Classic for those manufactured between 1941-1965 and Modern Classic for cars manufactured after 1965 but were at least 25 years old.

Other winning cars for the Classic and Modern Classic categories included a 1955 Porsche 356, 1959 pink Cadillac Coupe, 1962 Jaguar and a 1966 Aston Martin DB6. All winners received trophies while the overall winner was presented with a challenge trophy sponsored by SIC.

Participants from as far as Johor Baru and Penang had braved the scorching weather in the morning and early afternoon to proudly display their prized vehicles. Immaculately maintained and polished to a high shine, the cars were lined up in front of the Sultan Abdul Samad Building for judging.

Officiating the opening ceremony, SIC chairman Tan Sri Basir Ismail said he was happy with the overwhelming response.

He told car owners they would be given two grandstand tickets for the F1 race worth RM1,200 each. They could redeem their tickets at SIC by furnishing proof that they participated in today's competition.

"I know some of you have travelled a long way and you spent a lot of time preparing your cars before you drove here," Basir added.

Competitionwise, he said each car was judged on maintenance, appearance and originality.

The judges were Road Transport Department directorgeneral Datuk Dr Mohd Shahar Sidek, Department of Museums and Antiquities directorgeneral Datuk Dr Adi Taha, United Kingdom vintage/classic car expert Vernon Peter Kell and Malaysia-/Singapore Vintage Car Club past president Chia Quee Khee.

"Twentythree open top vintage and classic cars will also be selected today to be driven by F1 drivers in a parade at the F1 opening on race day at the Sepang F1 Circuit," added Bashir.

"One car will carry Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad."

Also held were precision driving challenges for a Proton Waja 1.6 Manual (open to public) and a Lotus Elise (by invitation only) to complete a routine of tight turns and reverses in the shortest time possible.

