

MALAY MAIL

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Dr Mahathir visits F1 team

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'His presence a great boost to the team'

THE growing support for our nation's first-ever F1 team was given a turbo boost with former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad — the man who brought F1 to Malaysia — giving his endorsement to the iMalaysia F1 team.

The veteran politician hung out at the team's suite at the Singapore GP Paddock Club during race day on Sunday, with some of the team's top management, including team principal Datuk Seri Tony Fernandes.

He was given a brief on the Lotus F1 engine — which will power the F1 team

next season — by its chief technical officer Mike Gascoyne.

Dr Mahathir also met several of the participating drivers when he was taken on a tour of the paddock by Fernandes, team directors Datuk Kamarudin Meranun, S.M. Nasrudin S.M. Nasumuddin and Zahri Ismail.

Fernandes said Dr Mahathir's presence was a great boost to the team, which is in its infancy.

"It was Tun's passion for the F1 that inspired us to come up with Malaysia's first F1 outfit," Fernandes said.



GOING BIG: (From left) F1 team director Kamarudin, Dr Mahathir, Lotus F1 chief technical officer Mike Gascoyne, team principal Fernandes and director Nasarudin