



MEDIA RELEASE

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AAM INITIATIVES TO ASSIST THE DEVELOPMENT MOTORSPORTS AT THE GRASSROOTS LEVEL

Malaysian motorsports' governing body the Automobile Association of Malaysia (AAM) today announced a series of programs and initiatives aimed at bringing further development to the sport, particularly at the grassroots level.

The new initiatives, from subsidizing the competition licence and insurance fees for newcomers, development grants for karting to free track, circuit and venue safety inspection have been designed to encourage greater participation to introducing and extending greater safety levels at even non-competition motorsports based activities.

“Judging by the number of events and activities being held in the country over the last few years, motorsports in Malaysia has gained momentum and popularity,” said Yang Mulia Datuk Tunku Mudzaffar Tunku Mustapha, the chairman of AAM.

“But, while the growth in terms of serious competitors has been in relatively small numbers, the number of non-competition based activities has grown tremendously for instance with the introduction of events such as drifting, fun karting etc and this is a very positive sign..

“As the custodian of motorsports in Malaysia we would like to see greater professionalism being introduced at the grassroots level, particularly in embracing higher safety standards. However, this initiative will take on a new approach whereby it will stress on being more educational, and involves AAM extending our assistance, services and contributions to the relevant parties, in some cases for free, until such point in time when these safety values become naturally ingrained.”

1. Revised Fees for Competition Licence And Insurance Coverage

- A 50% reduction in the fee for a competition licence from RM50 to RM25 (applicable for all National applications)
- A 50% reduction in insurance fee from RM200 to RM100 (applicable only for new novice applications). The insurance provides RM50,000 coverage for death and permanent disability, and a RM25,000 coverage for medical and hospitalization expenses.
- Sponsorship of competition licence for deserving individuals competing at international level (applicable to those without major sponsors)

Under the new rates, new applicants for a competition licence will only pay a total of RM125 (RM25 licence and RM100 insurance fees) as opposed to the previous rate of RM250, while existing competition licence holders will enjoy a RM25 reduction. Both new and existing competition licence holders will enjoy the same insurance benefits.

Tunku Mudzaffar said the reduced competition licence fee and subsidized insurance fee was designed not only to encourage greater participation in motorsports activities but more importantly to ensure that individuals who participate in sanctioned events receive proper insurance protection in the event the unfortunate occurs.

AAM is the sole authority in Malaysia empowered by the Federation International de l' Automobile (FIA), Federation Internationale Motocyclisme (FIM) and Commission Internationale de Karting (CIK-FIA) to issue competition licences to competitors in compliance with requirements of the FIA, FIM and CIK-FIA.

As Malaysian motorsports' governing body, responsible for sanctioning events recognized by the FIA, FIM and CIK-FIA, AAM is also entrusted with judicial matters in respect of motorsports competitions, rules and regulations and organizational concerns.

2. Track / Circuit Inspection

AAM shall handle all applications for Track licence in compliance with FIA, FIM and CIK-FIA standards and requirement. AAM shall assist in the submission of such an application to the international bodies like the FIA, FIM, and CIK-FIA.

In view of the high risk exposure, all circuits will continue to receive AAM inspection to ensure all safety and technical requirements are adhered to the fullest. This will ensure that the safety interest of the competitors, officials and spectators are not compromised at any time.

AAM is also offering operators of new tracks, circuits and venues the opportunity to have their facilities inspected to ensure maximum safety of both competitors and spectators, at no charge based on a case to case basis.

This offer applies to operators of facilities for all forms of motorsports activities, from fun karts and motocross to spectator events such as drifting.

All existing AAM affiliated racing and karting circuits however, will continue to be subjected to the existing fee, terms and conditions.

“To prevent these safety inspections from becoming an obstacle or a financial burden to operators, AAM is extending this offer more as a service. Motorsports, in whatever its form, is dangerous and we invite promoters, event organizers and venue operators will take full advantage of this assistance as it is in their best interest to take all the necessary precautionary measures in safeguarding its participants and spectators,” Tunku Mudzaffar underlined.

3. Development Grant for Karting

AAM will also be providing a development grant in giving the sport of karting a greater boost and to encourage greater participation from newcomers.

The grant is to assist karting programs at the grassroots level that are initiated by Kelab Kart Selangor & Wilayah Persekutuan (KKS&WP) and other karting organizers.

4. Prize Monies for National Championships

AAM will be putting up prize monies in five different national championships that are in threat of being cancelled or held back in the absence or shortage of sponsorships.

“Sponsorship and funding continues to become a very big challenge for promoters and organizers of motorsports events in Malaysia, and while plenty of effort goes into preserving the continuity of these Championships, AAM’s small contribution will help ensure that it would not be at the expense of participants or discourage the level of participation,” said Tunku Mudzaffar.

1. SIC AAM Malaysian Motocross Championship

- RM2,400 prize money per round
- Total of RM14,400 for 6 Championship rounds

2. KKS AAM Malaysian Karting Championship

- RM1,250 prize money per round
- RM1,250 worth of tyres per round
- Total of RM12,500 for 5 Championship rounds

3. Felda AAM Malaysian Rally Championship

- RM1,500 prize money per round
- RM4,500 for total of 3 Championship rounds
- Recovery vehicle services at all 4 Championship rounds

4. Malaysian Rally 2007 (FIA Asia Pacific Rally Championship round)

- RM20,000

5. AAM Malaysian 4X4 Rally Championship

- RM 5,000.00 prize money per round
- RM20,000 for a total of 4 Championship rounds

Likewise, other AAM Affiliates who are in need of financial support for motorsports development should forward their proposal to us for us to study the project and support the same.

For more information, kindly contact S. N. Nanthan, AAM's Motorsports Manager at Tel: 03-7710 9121

Issued on behalf of the Automobile Association of Malaysia (AAM) by HIT Communications. For inquiries contact Harris Iskandar Taib at 019-2711609 or email to hitcommunications@yahoo.com.