



# News Release

## TEAM PROTON R3 ANNOUNCES LADY RACERS SEARCH AND MENTOR PROGRAMME

- Ladies team to compete in 2019 S1K in PROTON R3 race car
- Selected teams running Proton cars in MSF to be mentored by PROTON R3

**Subang Jaya, 22 August 2019** – Team Proton R3 (R3), PROTON's racing and rallying division, has announced a lady racers search and mentorship programme for race teams competing in the Malaysia Speed Festival (MSF) series. The programmes are in partnership with MSF who are the largest grassroots motorsports event in the country. Both programmes aim to develop motorsports at a grassroots level by leveraging on R3's experience built up over years of competition.

### Giving back to Malaysia's racing community

R3 are the only manufacturer supported racing team in Malaysia and with over 15 years of experience, PROTON's performance arm has a string of accolades to its name. Their resume is highlighted by wins in the Asia Pacific Rally Championship (APRC) and class victories at the World Rally Championship (WRC) level. Domestically, the team has two overall Merdeka Millennium Endurance (MME) wins to its name as well as four Sepang 1000km (S1K) victories, a record unmatched by any other automotive brand.

With such a long list of accolades, R3 now hopes to share its wealth of experience via the MSF-R3 Lady Racers Search and MSF-R3 Mentor Programme. The aim is to allow Malaysian racing drivers and teams access to information, team management and car development techniques that will help to elevate their performance and lead them to success at national level events. It is also an opportunity to discover talented lady racers and nurture their careers, giving them a good head start in a male dominated arena.

### Putting women behind the wheel and mentoring racing teams.

While many Malaysian racing drivers have competed in regional and international events, almost all of them have been male dominated. PROTON and R3 would like to change the narrative and give lady drivers a chance to shine in motorsports, hence the MSF-R3 Lady Racers Search.

From an initial pool of participants, three will be offered an opportunity to develop as racing drivers and participate in the 2019 edition of the S1K race, driving a Team Proton R3 prepared car. Selections will be based on how contestants perform in a series of on and off-track activities and will include being judged on criteria such as discipline, team work and commitment aside from their skill behind the wheel.

As for the mentor programme, selected drivers and teams competing in the MSF SuperTurismo races using Proton vehicles will be supported by Team Proton R3 personnel for the remaining three events this year. Though each team will be independently run managed, R3 will provide technical and set-up know-how before and during the race, with the specific aim to improve their performance and inculcate best industry practices.



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“Our long history of competing means there is a wealth of knowledge at Team Proton R3’s disposal. At the same time, we want to get more involved at the grassroots level as we feel PROTON and R3 should play a bigger role in the development of motorsports in Malaysia. These two separate programmes will allow us to be involved on two fronts simultaneously while also showcasing the ability of Proton cars to compete in races” said Gary Lee, head of Team Proton R3.

“At PROTON, we value our competition heritage and acknowledge our cars remain a popular choice at all levels of racing and rallying. We invest to compete in local and international events because we believe motorsports is a fertile environment to develop the best engineers. The lady drivers search and mentor programmes are just the starting point and we hope our efforts will spur more involvement from other automotive companies to develop the local racing scene,” added Dr Li Chunrong, Chief Executive Officer of PROTON.

### **Selected drivers and teams for MSF-R3 Racers Mentor Programme:**

Mohd Hafiz Saad #248

Nik Shahrul Fadli Nik Mansor #141

Alban Raymond De Souza #16

Muhammad Faishal Othman #180

Md. Shah Hashim #387

### **Contestants for MSF-R3 Lady Drivers Search:**

Ng Aik Sha

Samanda Lee

Nurul Husna Nasharuddin

Nursharina Nor Ramlle

Dayangku Faratiwan Adnil

Rozana Rahmat

Umi Nasirah Sulaiman

Zaidah Mohd Ishak

Nor Azirah Mohd Azhar

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### About PROTON

PROTON Holdings Berhad is 50.1% owned by DRB-HICOM Berhad and 49.9% by Zhejiang Geely Holding Group Co. Ltd. Established in 1983, it is the only full-fledged OEM car manufacturer that is complete with research and development (R&D) facility in South-East Asia and was established with three primary national policy objectives, which are, to spearhead the development of component manufacturing industries, to acquire and upgrade technology and industrial skills within the automotive manufacturing industry and to strengthen the international competitiveness of Malaysia's industrial capability.

1985 marked a momentous year in Malaysia's history when the country's first national car, the Proton Saga, rolled out for the masses. Since then, its offerings include versatile and reliable four-door family vehicles such as the Saga and Persona, stylish executive sedans such as Prevé, the elegant executive D-segment Perdana as well as spacious and affordable multi-purpose vehicles like the Exora and Ertiga. There is also the sleek sporty Suprima S that is packed with performance and the bold and stylish Iriz that emphasises safety and is the most affordable 5-Star ASEAN NCAP car.

PROTON is more than just a car company as its inception as a key driver of national development has seen the brand accelerate its learning curve through technology transfer with strategic partnership and technical collaborations. There is no doubt that it has helped grow the Malaysian economy through its progress and success in the automobile industry.

By listening to the needs of customers, PROTON cars are now steadily on track to achieve the mission for the future, with PROTON set to become a marque which builds quality and safe cars with passion and soul; cars that are enjoyable to drive - and a pleasure to own. For more information, visit <http://www.proton.com>.

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