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News Release

TEAM PROTON R3 DOMINATE MALAYSIA CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES (MCS) ROUND 3

- **Double wins and a podium lockout in race two highlight PROTON's dominance**
- **Team effort sees Team PROTON R3 drivers close to within two points of championship lead**

Subang Jaya, 16 July 2019 – Team PROTON R3 (R3), dominated Round 3 of the 2019 Malaysia Championship Series (MCS) by clinching a double victory that included locking out the podium places with a 1-2-3 finish in race two. Held at the Sepang International Circuit (SIC) over the weekend, each race was a gruelling one hour affair that tested the limits of the cars and their drivers and ultimately proved once again that R3 are the dominant team in the M-Production class.

R3 focused on taking championship lead

The weekend started inauspiciously for R3 as the qualifying sessions didn't go exactly to plan. The Proton Suprima S driven by Mitchell Cheah qualified on pole position but his teammates Fariqe Hairuman and Syafiq Ali in the Proton Iriz and James Veerapen in the Proton Saga only managed fourth and fifth on the starting grid as the team worked continuously to find the perfect handling balance for both cars.

During the race, the Proton Suprima S driven by Mitchell dominated the race and took the chequered flag to give R3 yet another M-Production class victory in the 2019 championship. The other two R3 cars ended race one where they started, in fourth and fifth, leaving the team with a lot of work to do to ensure a strong finish for the second race of the weekend.

Race two was held on Sunday and with the finishing positions from race one determining the starting order, the trio of R3 Proton racing cars started in first, fourth and fifth. When the lights went out however, all three cars quickly charged to head of the field as the superior performance of the Proton Suprima S, Iriz and Saga gave the team an unbeatable edge over the competition.

By dominating race two, R3 gave itself a window of opportunity to maximise the points scored by their leading team. Therefore, at the of the race, it was the Proton Iriz of Fariqe and Syafiq that was first across the finishing line followed by Mitchell in his Proton Suprima S and James in the Proton Saga.

It was the first time R3 had finished the race in the top-three positions and the result left Fariqe and Syafiq just two points behind the current championship leader for the M-Production class in the 2019 Malaysia Championship Series.

"Round three of the MCS was a tough challenge for R3 as we strived to maximize our points haul in both races. The one-hour endurance race format over the weekend was a very good opportunity for us to work on the performance and reliability of our Proton racing machines and the results show we are on the right track to win the overall title. It also shows our cars will be strong during this year's Sepang 1000KM (S1K), so it was a great effort all around," said Gary Lee, Team Principal of PROTON R3.

Motorsports is in PROTON's DNA

Over the last 15 years, Team PROTON R3 has supported and participated in – and won – some of the most prestigious motorsports events in Malaysia and throughout the region. Highlights include overall victories at the Merdeka Millennium Endurance event in 2005 and 2006 as well as four victories at the S1K race in 2012, 2014, 2017 and last year, 2018.



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Although the drivers get most of the glory, motor racing is a team sport with success dependent on the hard work of multiple key partners and people to ensure a positive result. The team utilises all its assets, including efficient pit stops and painstaking teamwork by the crew to pull off its best results. R3 engineers and team personnel spend countless hours to build a winning race car that reflects the technical capabilities and professionalism of everyone involved. They also work hand-in-hand with PROTON's engineers to ensure that lessons learned on the track are communicated to the team responsible for the road cars.

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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 than 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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