

Press Release

Sulayem allays fears of classic car owners

Dubai, UAE; February 28, 2009: FIA Vice President for Sport and President of the Automobile and Touring Club of the UAE (ATCUAE) Mohammed Ben Sulayem has assured owners of vintage cars in the UAE that he would look into, and redress, issues faced by them, particularly with regard to registration of their vehicles.

Speaking after inaugurating the first-ever Burj Dubai Classic Car Show, parade and competition at Downtown Burj Dubai in the presence of Emaar Chairman Mohammed Allabar, Sulayem was referred to concerns raised by vintage car owners following a proposal by the government to ban vehicles 20 years and over from the Emirates' roads.

"The new regulations haven't been finalized yet but, basically, they're designed to take old cars which are no longer roadworthy off the roads," Sulayem pointed out, adding: "Well-maintained classic cars won't be affected, so enthusiasts don't need to worry."

Speaking to journalists later, Sulayem said the ATCUAE is now the UAE representative of Fédération Internationale des Véhicules Anciens (FIVA), the international body that promotes the interests of historic car enthusiasts. "As a result, the Club is now solely responsible for issuing classic car eligibility certificates to vehicles which are at least 25 years old," he said, pointing out that "to earn a certificate, a vehicle has to go through a stringent test to ensure that it has been maintained to a very high standard and complies with international FIVA safety regulations."

Sulayem, the Arab World's most successful rally driver ever, lavished praise on Emaar, the organizers of the two-day car show, parade and competition, saying he was happy to note that this would now be an annual event on Emaar's calendar.

Allabar, on his part, said the classic car competition is billed to become the most competitive event of its kind in the region and will also elevate Emaar Boulevard as one of the most vibrant lifestyle destinations in the city.

Burj Dubai Classic Car Show marks the start of a year-long calendar of events to be hosted at Emaar Boulevard. The 3.5 km custom-built premise is aimed at strengthening community spirit through varied leisure activities, and will recreate the appeal of the world's famed boulevards through retail and leisure activities. A spectacular line-up of art, fashion, sport and lifestyle events are being planned to be held at Emaar Boulevard throughout the year.

The event showcased classic vehicles from the private collection of Sulayem, the El Serkal family, who are passionate car collectors, and Sharjah Museum. Other private collectors also showcased their vehicles at the event.

One of the rare vehicles to be displayed was a 1952 Jaguar XK120, the first British Post World War II car to achieve 120 miles per hour. It was considered as the 'supercar of its day' which has since then competed in world classic car rallies such as 'Milano San Remo Cup,' 'The Jewel That is Jordan,' 'London to Brighton,' and 'Liege Rome Liege.'

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors:

Automobile & Touring Club of the UAE (ACT UAE)

The Automobile and Touring Club of the UAE (ATCUAE) is the only officially nominated representative of the FIA, motor sport's world governing body, in the UAE and its motor cycling, karting and classic car counterparts - the FIM, CIK and FIVA. It is also the only FIA-authorized organisation in the UAE to issue international driving permits, as well as *carnet de passage en douane* (trip tickets) and international certificates, which simplify customs formalities for motoring tourists and travellers. The ATCUAE is also developing driver awareness campaigns on road safety, vehicle safety and the environment.

The Club was established in 1965 and has offices in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah and Al Ain.

The Club also authorises, supports and organises the Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge - the opening round of both the FIA Cross Country Rally World Cup and the FIM Cross Country Rallies World Championship. It also organises two rounds of the FIA Middle East Rally Championship - the UAE International Rally and the Dubai International Rally.

The Automobile & Touring Club of the UAE is also involved in many non-racing activities that promote the sport, its safety, and support relevant public policy.

Since 1973 it has been an affiliated member of Alliance Internationale de Tourisme (AIT), the leading and most successful international body concerned with motoring, touring, road assistance services and outdoor leisure.

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