

Press Release



Bahrain Motor Federation backs Mohammed Ben Sulayem for President of the FIA



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Candidate for the FIA presidency Mohammed Ben Sulayem is pleased to announce that the Bahrain Motor Federation (BMF) has pledged its support for the Emirati former Middle East Rally Champion in the forthcoming presidential election to be held on Dec 17.

The BMF has been active since the 1950's in promoting racing events in the Kingdom as well as supporting motorsport enthusiasts across all aspects of the business of competing across a range of local events. The Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) was built in 2004 and has been hosting F1 World Championship events since then.

In addition, as expression of further support and friendship, Shaikh Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa has accepted to be candidate for the position of Vice President Sport for the MENA region, thus joining a very distinguished and professional group of candidates under the electoral banner of FIA For Members, all campaigning for the election of Mohammed Ben Sulayem to the presidency of the Federation International Automobile.

Shaikh Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa has formerly led the FIA's karting commission, the CIK, for eight years before stepping down before the last election. A prominent figure in the promotion of motorsport in Bahrain and in the MENA region, he has been instrumental in the creation of the Bahrain International Circuit, the Middle East's first F1-omologated venue, now host to an impressive range of motorsport racing events. The circuit complex also houses a state-of-the-art karting track.

Shaikh Abdulla said: "In the first place, on behalf of the Bahrain Motor Federation, I am delighted to announce our federation's support for Mohammed Ben Sulayem as candidate for the presidency of the FIA. Secondly, I am honoured and proud to have been chosen for the role of VP Sport for the MENA region. It is my home region, and I am keen to build on the great work that has already been done to develop further motorsport in the Middle East and Africa. We have the talent; we have the youth and the desire. It will be up to us to create the right learning and practical environment to fulfil their dreams."

Mohammed Ben Sulayem said: “I am pleased, and humbled, for the support given me by the Bahrain Motor Federation for the forthcoming FIA presidential elections. The BMF is one of the oldest yet also most innovative motor clubs in the MENA region and I have worked with them for many years on several events and I know the professionalism and hard work they bring to all their projects. In addition, I would like to warmly welcome Shaikh Abdulla to our election campaign and the role of VP Sport MENA. If elected I will be supporting him as he focuses on our region to bring to the fore all the talent that lies dormant through lack of opportunity and funding.”

Mohammed Ben Sulayem has been involved in the setting up and promotion of the MENA Karting Championship, the second edition of which will take place from November 16th – 20th.

This is a wonderful competition format for young drivers from the region who can showcase their skills and race in affordable karts, something the presidential candidate is very keen to promote, as a sure way of encouraging young people to try their hand at this wonderful sport.

Next year MENA will host four Grands Prix and the Emirati rally champion is determined that all the relevant stakeholders need to work together to ensure there are more people from the region involved in F1; be it drivers, team managers and engineers: the focus is to bring in more, diverse and young recruits to the sport.

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