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Have a ball with celebrities for charity

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Formula 1 Petronas Malaysian Grand Prix is returning with a star-studded GP Ball where guests can rub shoulders with Hollywood stars and contribute to charity.

The two beneficiaries of the Sapura and Kencana Petroleum Red Ribbon GP Ball 2012 are the Malaysian AIDS Foundation (MAF) and the Global Poverty Project, which is an international education and advocacy organisation.

Allsports Services Sdn Bhd director Hafez Mohamed said the proceeds from the sale of tables and charity auction would be split between the two organisations.

The Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Award will also make a return this year with the MAF awarding an individual or organisation contributing for work in HIV/AIDS in the country.

"The ball has received strong support from both the public and private sector over the years as it complements a range of events hosted in the build-up to the race," Hafez said.

He said the organisers would decorate Mandarin Oriental Hotel to give the 600-odd guests and celebrities a memorable night on March 22.

"We will be adopting an island stage concept and pin-drop lighting. Everyone attending will have a good view all night," he said.

Besides celebrities, F1 drivers and their principals, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor are expected to attend.

Hafez said local singer Dayang Nurfaizah had been slotted to perform alongside an international act which would be announced later.

London-based event organiser LME Agency chief executive officer Rio Kader said actor and film producer Adrien Brody would be the fourth celebrity along with *Fast and Furious* star Paul Walker, *10,000 BC* actress Camilla Belle and versatile actor Owen Wilson.

The identity of two other celebrities would be revealed later.

Tables for 10 are priced at RM35,000, RM50,000, RM100,000

and RM200,000.

Purchasers of the RM100,000 and RM200,000 tables will be invited to a meet-and-greet session with the celebrities.

For details, call the MAF at 03-4045 1033 or Allsports Services at 03-5513 5528 or 012-246 0522.

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- HAFEZ MOHAMED



Tinseltown star: Belle is set to appear at the star-studded GP Ball along with Brody, Walker and Wilson. Two more celebrities - to be revealed soon - will join them at the charity event. - AFP