



NINTH QUICKEST FOR LEBANON IN SOUTH AFRICA

A1 Team Lebanon posted ninth quickest lap in the second session of practice at the A1 Grand Prix of Nations, Durban today, the team's best practice day performance of the Series so far. The event is the first-ever street race to be held in the city, and the first, and only, street race circuit on the A1 Grand Prix calendar and presented a tough challenge for the international grid of cars and drivers.

Heavy showers in the morning and persistent rain in the afternoon were the major factors in the fortunes of the teams with many spins, excursions into the tyre walls and slipping down the escape roads of this tight 3.2 kilometre temporary street track. Basil Shaaban, selected by the team to compete in this weekend's event, was caught out by the wet track in the morning, with a slide into the tyre barrier at the second turn. The team were able to replace a damaged nose cone and the young Lebanese driver was able to be back out on track before the end of the session. In the later practice session Shaaban began to get to grips with the track and was quickly on the pace, running comfortably within the top ten runners, finally finishing ninth fastest.

"It was a very challenging day," said Shaaban. "It's quite a difficult track to learn and to master, particularly in the very wet conditions that we had to endure today. I'm pleased that we finished in the top ten and hope that we can maintain this level of performance tomorrow. I think it will be very different in the dry, but we know we have a good setup for the wet."

Martin Stone, Racing Manager for the team added, "Basil made a good start today. Apart from his slide off track, we've seen his times improve over the course of the day. He has gained experience of the track and reacquainted himself with the car. For a first day on a street circuit he has done a good job. I hope the weather is kinder tomorrow which will make it a little easier for everyone."

A1 Team Lebanon is one of 25 national teams represented on the A1 Grand Prix grid. The A1 racing cars for each team are identical, presenting a level playing field, and bringing the focus to the expertise, skill and bravery of the drivers. The Series visits 12 venues through the winter, travelling to the Middle East, Asia, Australia, USA, South America, South Africa and Europe.

Ends.

A1 Team Lebanon photographs are available for download from www.a1gp-photo.com/lib

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