Taking the lead in safety

CRASH TEST LABORATORY: The facility in Malacca aims to come up with an acceptable Asean NCAP rating

YOU wouldn’t have believed that an epochal event for the Asean region was about to take place in such a peaceful durian orchard in Malacca.

Located in the sweeping grounds of the Road Transport Department’s Academy grounds near Malacca was the Crash Test Laboratory of the Malaysian Institute of Road Safety (Miros) which was set up recently.

Sharp on the dot of 4pm, with an unearthly sound like a banshee, a white Toyota Vios rushed into view and smashed into a concrete block at what seemed like a fatal speed.

Even though it was a simulated crash under laboratory conditions, it was a sickening sight that elicited a collective sigh, and some stifled screams from the 15 photographers and media representatives squeezed into the stuffy observation room of the Miros PC3 Crash Lab.

The crash simulation was the finale of a week-long Automotive Safety Exhibition and Seminar held in Malacca, in association with the Academy grounds near Malacca was the Crash Test Laboratory of the Road Transport Department’s Miros which was set up recently.

The crash was the opening of the Malaysian office of the FIA contribution

WHEN Max Mosley was still the chairman of the FIA - the Paris-based world governing body over motor vehicle sports and, incidentally, safety - he established the FIA Foundation on road safety in London.

The FIA Foundation contributed RM1 million to the first phase of the Miros PC3 which includes the crash testing and assessment of seven made-in-Asean cars.

The Automobile Association of Malaysia (AAM) is an affiliate of the FIA, whose current chairman is Jean Todt, the constant companion and confidante of Malaysian actress Datuk Michelle Yeoh.

Prince Michael of Kent is the patron of the Commission for Global Road Safety and has been to Malaysia often, the last official visit being the opening of the Malaysian office of the Institute of the Motor Industry.