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RGM'S SUPERCHARGED M3...IT EATS CONCRETE FOR BREAKFAST

RGM's 504 kW monster M3 has done it again and on August 22 it set a new benchmark performance record for the BMW brand, this time around Gerotek's intimidating three-kilometre banked oval.

With speed merchant Reghard Roets at the wheel, the supercharged V8 coupe shattered the early morning silence and lit up the timing system at the most recent BMW Club versus Opel Club top speed shootout, recording an independently-verified top speed of 266.385 km/h as it crossed the facility's start/finish line. In the process, it set a benchmark which would remain unbeaten by any BMW or Opel rival for the rest of the day.

Says Roets, a seasoned Production Car racer as well as a member of the RGM sales team: "It was pretty hair-raising and I had the car quite sideways on a couple of occasions but as far as the power and engine behaviour was concerned it ran perfectly.

"Events like this ultimately form part of the certification process which we apply to our conversions and successfully handling this kind of extreme stress gives us the confidence that our cars will stand up to the toughest treatment that customers might dish out," added Roets. "With more work on the suspension set-up, I think we could top 270km/h...the RGM brains trust will sit down soon and decide what need to be done to achieve that!"

Roets tried various techniques to improve his speed later in the day, such as running through the turn at the Eastern end of the oval in fifth gear, hooking top as he exited the banked curve. While the VBOX data logger installed in the car showed that he touched 271 km/h before the first turn, he was unable to improve on the speed recorded earlier at the traps. At the same time, he went for an unofficial lap record, and achieved a best average of 248.4 km/h, dispatching the concrete surface at a rate of 69 metres per second! According to anecdotal records, the three-km record is held by a BMW M5 at an average speed of 248.8 km/h...

"Our objective for the day was to uphold the honour of BMW and the BMW Club," says RGM's Robin Green. "Apart from running a set of Dunlop semi-slick race tyres, the set-up was completely standard and if 'Reggie' couldn't coax any more speed out of it on the banking, I don't think anyone could've. However, I believe the outright Gerotek top speed record of 269 km/h is within our grasp and we will certainly set out to break that next time – as well as record an average lap speed in excess of 250 km/h.

"This achievement comes hot on the heels of the Kyalami lap record which we set with this car a month ago, so I think we can safely say we're the guys to beat when it comes to making BMWs go faster, and go faster reliably..."

captions:

"If you go off here, you'll fly a loooong way," explains Mark Jones of the BMW Club.

Reghard Roets prepares himself for a fast one...

At speed...the RGM supercharged BMW M3 comes past the pits at 266 km/h

Ends

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