

Azizulhasni, a role model in sports for younger generation

PUTRAJAYA — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak wants Keirin World Champion Azizulhasni Awang to be a role model in sports for the younger generation of Malaysians.

He said it was hoped Azizulhasni's achievement would encourage Malaysians to participate more actively in sports.

"Hopefully, Azizulhasni will become an icon as he can speak well, has a pleasant personality and is a good person.

"I am confident Azizulhasni will become a role model, especially for the younger generation," he said at the ceremony to present Azizulhasni a residential suite from Naza Corporation Holdings, at Seri Perdana here yesterday.

On the contribution from Naza Corporation Holdings, Najib said it was a token of appreciation from the corporate sector to Azizulhasni for bringing international glory to Malaysia in the field of sports.

At the event, Najib presented Azizulhasni with a replica of the access card to the suite at Trion 888. Also present was Naza TTDI Group SM chairman Nasarudin SM Nasimuddin.

The suite in Trion 888, priced at RM350,000 and located in Equine Park, Seri Kembangan, is part of a Naza TTDI Sdn Bhd project due to be completed by the end of this year.

Gold medal winners at the Rio Paralympic Games 2016, Mohamad Ridzuan Moha-

mad Puzi, Muhammad Ziyad Zolkefli and Abdul Latif Romli were also rewarded with units at Trion 888.

Azizulhasni, who arrived from Melbourne, Australia, early yesterday, thanked the Prime Minister and Naza Group for their recognition and appreciation.

"I am grateful. I was informed about this appreciation by the Prime Minister. I am touched and happy.

"I had mixed feelings when I found out the Prime Minister would present me a suite on behalf of Naza.

"I am emotional and, at the same time, happy because we athletes who work hard all the time have never expected this kind of recognition," he said.

He said it was not easy to reach the ranks of the elite in sports and there had been many sacrifices, including having to live in Melbourne for 10 years, leaving his family, including his parents, behind and spending his youth there.

"What is important is we get to inspire the younger generation in sports.

"As a national sports icon, like other sports champions such as Datuk Lee Chong Wei and Datuk Nicol David, I want to continue inspiring the younger generation to be active in sports.

"We (must) believe we can be world champions. Even though our country is small, we can become a major power in any field," he said. — Bernama