

SPORTCHECK

NEW RESPONSIBILITY FOR AZIZULHASNI

PM wants world champion to be role model in sports

KUALA LUMPUR

P RIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak wants world champion Azizulhasni Awang to be a role model in sports for the younger generation of Malaysians.

He said it was hoped that Azizulhasni's achievement would encourage other 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 in Putrajaya yesterday.

Azizulhasni scored a first for Malaysia when he won the World Championships keirin gold in Hong Kong last month.

He is the first Malaysian athlete to win a world title in an Olympic sport and the gold came just months after Azizulhasni won the Olympic bronze in Rio de

Jaaneiro.

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 chairman of Naza TTDI Group SM 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 which is due to be completed by the end of this year.

Gold medal winners at the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games, Mohamad Ridzuan Mohamad 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 the appreciation.

"I am very grateful. I was informed about this appreciation

from the Prime Minister. I am very touched and happy.

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

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

Azizulhasni 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 behind and spending his youth there.

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

"As a national sports icon, like other sports champions such as Lee Chong Wei and 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**



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak presents a Trion 888 SoHo residential suite access card to national cyclist Azizulhasni Awang on behalf of Naza Corporation Holdings at Seri Perdana in Putrajaya yesterday. Looking on are Naza TTDI Group chairman SM Nasarudin SM Nasimuddin (second from right) and Naza TTDI Sdn Bhd deputy executive chairman SM Faliq SM Nasimuddin. BERNAMA PIC