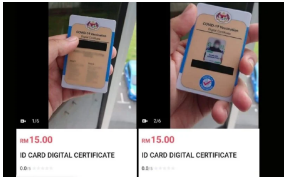


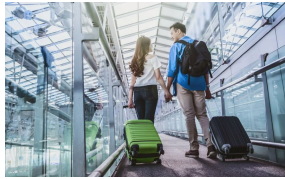
TRENDING



[Latest travel warning from CDC a blow to Thailand](#)



[Cops probe possible sale of digital vaccination certificates](#)



[Borders reopen vaccinated pop boon to airlines tourism recovers](#)



Time to move on from podium project

By [Fabian Peter](#) - August 10, 2021 @ 8:40am



Sports Minister Datuk Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican with Azizulhasni Awang (centre) and Shah Firdaus Sahrom in a video call with Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin after the men's keirin final on Sunday. BERNAMA PIC

YOUTH and Sports Minister Datuk Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican yesterday apologised on behalf of the national contingent for not meeting the three-medal target at the recent Tokyo Olympics.

In a virtual press conference, Reezal said: "As Sports Minister and head of the Malaysian contingent, I sincerely apologise to the people of Malaysia for not meeting the three-medal target at the Tokyo Olympics.

"The gold medal continues to remain elusive."

Following the conclusion of the Games on Sunday, Malaysia equalled their second-best haul at the 2012 London Games with one silver medal and one bronze.

MORE NEWS

- [Agong congratulates national contingents to Tokyo 2020](#)
- [Coach suspended after alleged verbal abuse](#)
- [OCM won't be just travel agency](#)
- [NSC have channels to handle](#)

MOST POPULAR

LATEST

[MOST READ](#)

- 5m [Australia's second-largest city extends lockdown](#)
- 9m [Agriculture produce stuck due to Covid-19 lockdowns](#)
- 9m [Managing minor ailments](#)
- 11m [Algeria wildfires kill 38, authorities blame arson](#)
- 25m [Latest travel warning from CDC a blow to Thailand](#)
- 45m [RM opens at 4.24 versus USD](#)
- 50m [Bursa Malaysia higher in early session](#)

complaints

National track cyclist Azizulhasni Awang won the silver in the men's keirin event, while men's doubles shuttlers Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik delivered the bronze.

Five years ago in Rio, Malaysia won four silver medals and one bronze.

Reezal admitted the challenges brought by the Covid-19 pandemic over the past 18 months were one of the reasons why most athletes could not bring out their best at the Games.

He said Malaysian athletes only competed in 32 international tournaments last year out of the 89 that was approved, and only 27 this year.

Reezal, who inherited the Podium programme from former sports ministers Khairy Jamaluddin and Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman, believes it is high time to set up a new dedicated programme focusing only on sports that will potentially bring home Olympic gold medals.

"In 2016, Khairy Jamaluddin launched the Podium Programme, which became Podium 2.0 under Syed Saddiq.

"I introduced the Road to Tokyo programme, but I believe it is high time to set up a special dedicated Olympic programme, moving away from the existing podium initiative.

"Together with the NSC and other stakeholders, we need to study and improve the programme further in line with our National Sports Vision 2030.

"We need something long term not just for one Olympic cycle but two or three if possible," added Reezal.

Concluding his overall assessment of the contingent's performance in Tokyo, Reezal said: "Cycling and badminton were definitely our best performers in Tokyo. It was really unfortunate for Azizulhasni to miss out on the gold, but I can say the silver won is of the weight of gold.

"Our shuttlers also did well, and I am super proud of them.

"We had expected more from diving, but they fail to match up to their previous showings.

"I don't want to go too much into details, but I have already spoken to Malaysia Swimming secretary-general Mae Chen to look at ways moving forward.

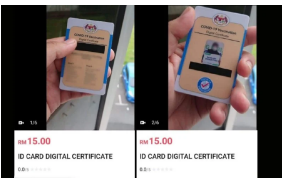
"We may not have met our three-medal target, but we can still take heart from our athletes' performances at the Games.



VACCINE



WORLD 6 minutes ago
Australia's second-largest city extends lockdown



CRIME & COURTS an hour ago
Cops probe possible sale of digital vaccination certificates



WORLD 3 hours ago
Facebook shuts down anti-vaccine influencer campaign



NATION Aug 10, 2021 @ 7:08pm
STA moots Covid-19 protection plan to boost tourist confidence



NATION Aug 10, 2021 @ 5:06pm
Over 500 Kuala Perlis residents benefit from special vaccination programme today.

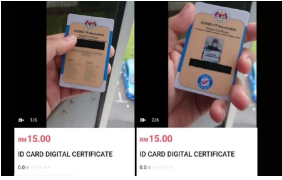


NATION Aug 10, 2021 @ 3:42pm
68.2 per cent of population has received first dose - Dr Adham

ACROSS NEW STRAITS TIMES



REGION 26 minutes ago
Latest travel warning from CDC a blow to Thailand



CRIME & COURTS an hour ago
Cops probe possible sale of digital vaccination certificates



NATION 2 hours ago
Umno split reaches grassroots

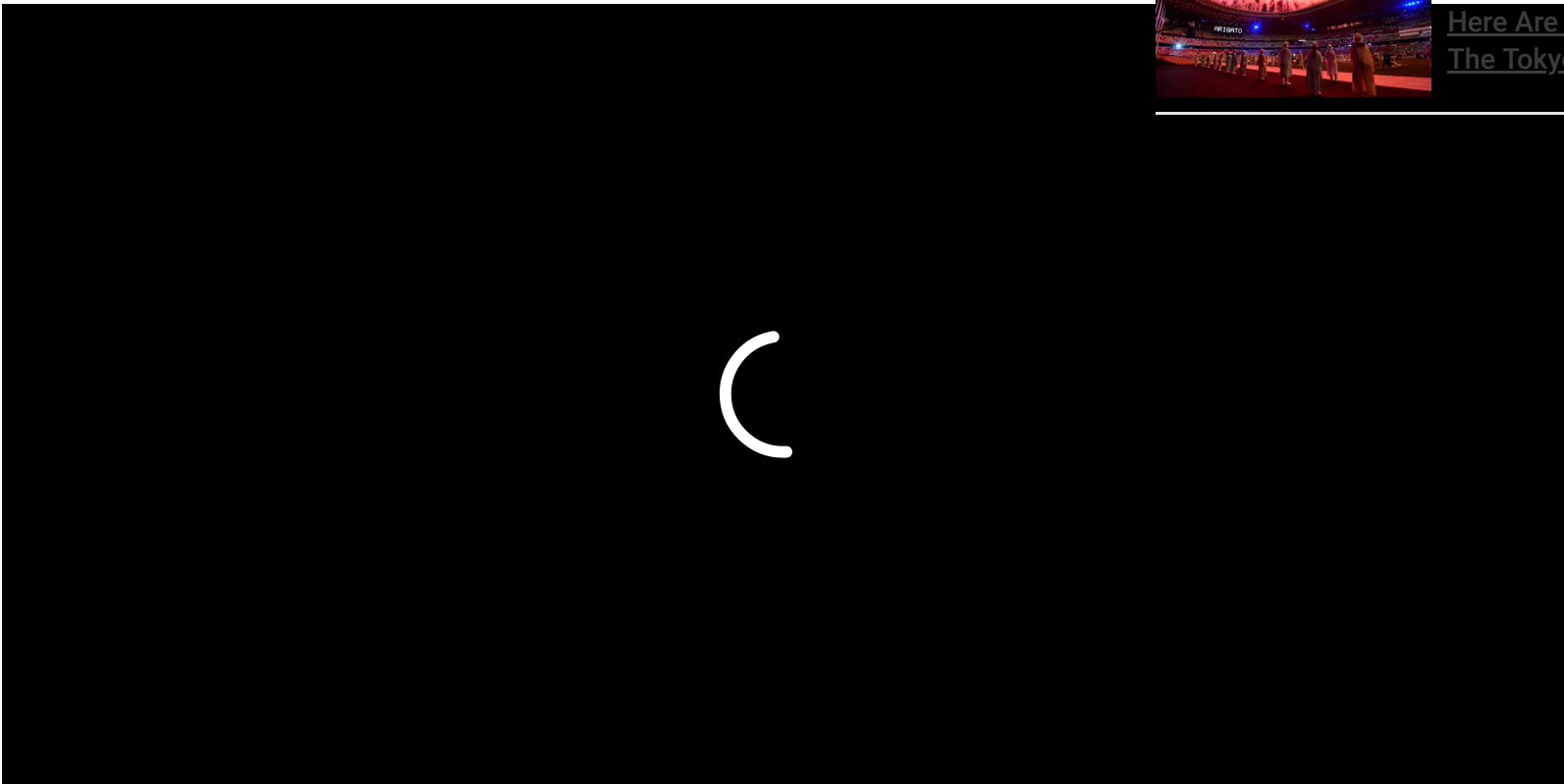
"We also achieved a few milestones. For the first time, 13 out of our 30-member squad were Olympic newcomers. Of the 30, 18 were female athletes.

"In the end, we finished 74th out of 206 countries, No 15 in Asia, No 13 among Commonwealth countries and fourth in Southeast Asia."

Reezal also singled out sprinter Azreen Nabila Alias, swimmer Phee Jinq En and archer Syaqiera Mashayikh for setting new personal bests in their respective events in Tokyo.

Joining Reezal at the press conference were Olympic Council of Malaysia president Tan Sri Norza Zakaria, NSC director-general Datuk Ahmad Shapawi Ismail, chef de mission (CDM) Datuk Lee Chong Wei and deputy CDM Datuk Nazifuddin Najib.

RELATED VIDEOS



NATION Aug 10, 2021 @ 8:04pm
FMM: Open all economic sectors immediately.

STORIES FROM SAYS

Jul 19, 2021 @ 6:47pm



11 Games We Used To Play When We Were Kids & Where You Can Play Them Now



Sep 3, 2020 @ 5:32pm
You Need To Stop Cleaning Your Ears With Cotton Buds. Here's Why.



Aug 10, 2021 @ 3:47pm
People Are Being Arrested And Investigated For Allegedly Insulting Kedah MB Sanusi

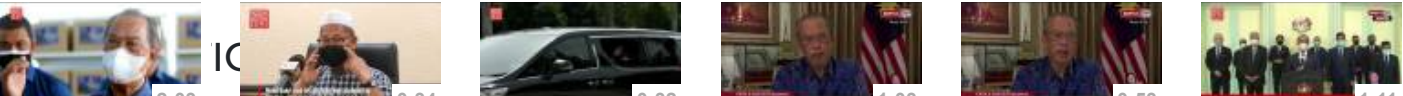


Aug 10, 2021 @ 12:04pm
Beijing Zoo Says Animals Started Fighting With Each Other After Seeing Humans Brawl



Aug 9, 2021 @ 3:37pm
Here Are The Top 10 Best Moments Of The Tokyo 2020 Olympics

RELATED



OTHERS Jul 9, 2021 @ 8:00am
Reezal calls for tighter safety measures

OTHERS Feb 15, 2021 @ 8:10am
MCO 2.0 leaves lanes shut and keglers high and dry.

OTHERS

Jul 12, 2021 @ 8:10am

'Nothing is impossible,' Reezal tells Tokyo-bound athletes

OTHERS

Jul 13, 2021 @ 8:10am

Mental well-being of Tokyo-bound athletes gets NSI help

Recommended by

As Tokyo Games end, boycott debate looms over Beijing Olympics

Sponsored | Nikkei Asia

#Showbiz: Actress Emma Akma needs RM50k to remove football-sized...

New Straits Times

Is this Malaysia's hottest investment opportunity for 2021? Start earning with...

Sponsored | Smartinvest.com

Malaysia - Latest news & coverage

Sponsored | CNA

'Mat Salleh Cari Makan' down with Covid-19 and dengue | New Straits Times

New Straits Times

#Showbiz: 'There were tears running down her cheeks' - Shuib | New Straits Times

New Straits Times



GET MOBILE APP



- NEWS

[Crime & Courts](#)
[Exclusive](#)
[Govt / Public Policy](#)
[Nation](#)
[Politics](#)
- BUSINESS

[Business Times](#)
[Property](#)
[Cars Bikes Trucks](#)
- LIFE & TIMES

[Sunday Vibes](#)
[Bots](#)
[Heal](#)
[Flair](#)
[Jom!](#)
[Groove](#)
- SPORTS

[Football](#)
[Badminton](#)
[Tennis](#)
[Cycling](#)
[Golf](#)
[MMA](#)
[MotorSport](#)
[Cricket](#)
[Others](#)
- WORLD

[World](#)
[Region](#)
- OPINION

[Columnists](#)
[Letters](#)
[Leader](#)
- GALLERY

[Photos](#)
[Infographics](#)
- NSTTV

[EDUCATION](#)
[VOUCHER](#)