



Diplomatic golf at The Mines Text by Shazelina Zainul Abidin, PhD

No other sport is quite as synonymous with the diplomatic corps as the game of golf.

Which is why when the Minister of Youth and Sports made the push for National Sports Day, it was only natural for the diplomatic corps to organise a friendly game between the foreign diplomats in Malaysia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Co-organised by the Ministry's Sports and Welfare Club and the Ambassador of Indonesia, the tournament saw the participation of 22 Malaysian and foreign diplomats at The Mines Resort & Golf Club on October 9.

The Ministry's challenge was led by deputy secretary general for bilateral affairs Datuk Muhammad Shahrul Ikram Yaakob and deputy secretary general for management services Datuk Mat Dris Haji Yaacob. Also on the fairways were chief of protocol Datuk Kamilan Maksom along with division heads Syed Hasrin Tengku Hussin, Mohd Aini Atan, and Zahairi Baharim.

Datuk Salman Ahmad, director general of the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations, was also in the team along with colleagues Ambassador Norman Muhammad, Syed Mohamed Bakri Syed Abd Rahman and Zakaria Nasir. The Ministry's Regional Centre for Counter Terrorism was represented by Shazryll Zahiran.



The Ministry also fielded the sole lady golfer in the event, Nadya Chong Wai Ling.

Over on the opposing side, aside from the players included the Ambassador of Indonesia Herman Prayitno, Ambassador of Vietnam Pham Cao Phong, Ambassador of Thailand Damrong Kraikruan, Ambassador of South Korea Dr Yu Hyun Seok, Ambassador of Kazakhstan Daniyar Serekenov, diplomats from the Indonesian embassy in Kuala Lumpur and The Mines founder Tan Sri Lee Kim Yew.

"In addition to golf helping us maintain a healthy lifestyle, spending time with each other on the green enhances the diplomatic relationship," said Ambassador Herman Prayitno.

The golf friendly was wrapped with a lunch prize-giving ceremony, where winner Dato' Kamilan Maksom, runner-up Datuk Muhammad Shahrul Ikram Yaakob and third placed Shazryll Zahiran received their prizes.