



22 JAN, 2025

POWERING DREAMS, ONE STRIKE AT A TIME

The Star, Malaysia



IN 1975, an electrifying atmosphere engulfed Kelab Kilat TNB Field along Jalan Pantai as Malaysians rallied together to witness the Hockey World Cup semi-final clash between Malaysia and India.

Nearly five decades later, this iconic field remains a symbol of resilience and a testament to Tenaga Nasional Berhad's (TNB) commitment to nurturing the next generation of hockey stars.

Since 2006, the utility giants have played a transformative role in elevating Malaysian hockey. As the main sponsor of the Malaysia Hockey League (MHL), TNB has also pioneered youth development through its flagship corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme, TNB Thunderbolts.

This initiative has served as a springboard for budding talent, enabling young athletes to shine both locally and internationally.

The TNB Thunderbolts programme is steeped in success, as many of its players have even donned the Malaysian jersey on the global stage, exemplifying the programme's dedication to excellence.

Despite a pandemic-induced hiatus, Thunderbolts tournaments have remained a vital platform, honing the skills and ambitions of promising athletes.

Nurturing future generations

More than a hockey initiative, TNB Thunderbolts is a symbol of empowerment and national pride. By identifying, training and nurturing young talent, it aligns with TNB's mission to enrich communities.

For TNB, sports transcend competition – they build discipline,

POWERING DREAMS, ONE STRIKE AT A TIME

TNB's Thunderbolts continues to nurture talent for the future

foster teamwork and nurture resilience.

As Malaysia marks 50 years since the historic 1975 Hockey World Cup, TNB chairman Tan Sri Abdul Razak Abdul Majid envisions a revitalised Malaysian hockey scene, reclaiming its place on the world stage.

Other nations, particularly from Europe, he noted, have surged ahead, emerging as new hockey powerhouses, leaving Malaysia behind.

"However, the successes of these new powerhouses remind us that Malaysia, once ranked fourth globally, has the potential to reclaim its position with determination and confidence," he shared.

Platform for champions

The return of the Thunderbolts six-a-side and seven-a-side hockey championship in 2024, mirrors TNB's long-held commitment to youth development.

For TNB hockey also extends beyond the pitch – it promotes healthy lifestyles, strengthens communities and fosters unity, proving that sports can be a powerful catalyst for positive change.

The most recent tournament, the first since 2019, unfolded in a thrilling two-day showdown from Dec 28-29 last year. The event saw a wealth of talent on display as 121 teams of boys and girls competed fiercely in the Under-18 and Under-12 categories at the TNB



TNB's Thunderbolts programme builds resilience, skill and unity through sport and youth development.

Kelab Kilat Field.

Whirlpool Sticks and SJ Stingers triumphed in the Under-12 Boys category, while Zaba Boys and STMI Thunderbolts claimed victory in the Under-18 Boys category.

In the girls' division, Ber-1 Girls Jr and Ber-1 Girls secured top honours in the Under-12 Girls category, while 4 State Phoenix and Nine Members emerged as champions in the Under-18 Girls category.

"With over 1,200 young participants brimming with potential, Malaysia is on the right path to strengthening its hockey scene, particularly under the ambitious TNB Thunderbolts project.

"Through this tournament, we

hope young Malaysian athletes seize this platform to showcase their talent and embody the spirit of sportsmanship in their quest to become champions," Abdul Razak remarked.

Rooted in sustainability

TNB's commitment to hockey extends far beyond the field, integrating sustainability through its Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles.

From implementing carpooling initiatives to reduce the championship's carbon footprint to fostering inclusivity by engaging employees, families and local tal-

ent, TNB is redefining the game with a purpose-driven approach.

In collaboration with sponsors, stakeholders and authorities, TNB prioritises meaningful actions that champion responsibility and sustainable growth.

Looking ahead, TNB Thunderbolts remains steadfast in its mission: nurturing young talent, inspiring excellence and driving the resurgence of Malaysian hockey.

Anchored in the indomitable spirit of 1975, this initiative carries forward a legacy of determination and pride, ensuring it continues to ignite inspiration for generations to come.