

# 'It never crossed my mind'

**INCREDIBLE:** Sprinter believed he would break 100m record only after completing studies

**ROSHIDI ABU SAMAH**

JASIN

roshidi@nst.com.my

The nation's newest sprint king, Badrul Hisyam Abdul Manap once dreamed of becoming "Malaysia's Fastest Man".

The Malacca-born 18-year-old runner however did not expect to achieve his dream at such a young age, what more smashing Watson Nyambek's 17-year-old record of 10.30 seconds.

"I thought I can achieve the target only after completing my studies. It never crossed my mind that I would emerge as the country's top sprinter at the age of 18," he at his mother's house in Kampung Batu Gajah Pasir, Sungai Rambai here yesterday, after clocking a new national 100-metre record of 10.29 seconds in Brunei last month.

Present were his mother Rozinah Baba, elder sister Nur Atiqah, his coach, Mohd Poad Md Kassim, and his primary school coach, Noraziah Kassim, state Agriculture and Entrepreneur Development Committee chairman Datuk Hasan Abdul Rahman who is Sungai Rambai assemblyman and scores of

fans and villagers.

Badrul who won the 100-metre sprint event at the Asean School Games in Bandar Seri Begawan on Nov 24, however admitted that he was still disappointed despite his success in the 100m event.

The student of Tunku Mahkota Ismail Sports School (SSTMI) in Johor revealed that he had set a target to beat Tan Sri Dr M. Jegathesan's 47-year-old record in the 200m event at the games.

"While in Brunei, I was aiming to retain the 100m and 200m gold medals which I won in Marikina City, Philippines, last year.

"It seems I had no luck in breaking the 200m record but managed to beat Watson Nyambek's 100m record."

Badrul said he wanted to join the police force after completing his studies at Universiti Putra Malaysia. He said it was his childhood dream to become a police officer.

"With a diploma or a degree, my chances to join the police force will be better."

Badrul is expected to meet Chief Minister Datuk Seri Idris Haron at the latter's office here today where Idris is expected to announce the state government's incentive for him.

Meanwhile, Poad said he would not push Badrul to run 0.01 second faster than the current 10.29s record in order to qualify for the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games in Brazil.

He said he would not want his protegee to suffer from further injury after a previous hamstring injury which had caused him to be dropped from the 4 x 100m relay team for the Singapore Sea Games in June.



**Badrul Hisyam Abdul Manap is the country's new sprint king. Pic by Muhammad Hatim Ab Manan**

"I also hope Badrul will be able to put on at least three kg from his current weight of 55kg.

"It is an ideal weight for us to improve his performance further."

Poad said Badrul's high metabolism rate could be why he found it hard to gain extra weight.

He said the teenage sprinter was scheduled to return to SSTMI to continue with his training on Dec 10.