

# Five-goal Shereilyn leads M'sia's women footballers in Timor Leste hammering

BP 2.8.2016 16

**KOTA KINABALU:** Malaysia women football squad exited the 9th ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) Cup Women Championships with their heads held high.

The team under Sabahan head coach Mohd Asyraaf Fong Abdullah concluded their fixtures in Group B with a 13-0 thrashing of Timor Leste.

The victory was no more than a consolation for the national team, finishing third in the group behind the already qualified Australia Under-20 and hosts Myanmar, who settled for a 1-1 draw in their meeting.

Malaysia showed much improvement and impressed even in the defeats to Aussies 0-4 and Myanmar 1-2.

Commenting on their last group game, Asyraaf said the players deserved praise after scoring a huge win against Timor Leste.

Attacking full-back Shereilyn Elly Pius was the toast of the squad by scoring five goals to claim the match's best player award.

"The squad deserved to be happy with the result because it was the second international Class A game that they won this year," Asyraaf said referring to the win over Singapore in a friendly here recently.

"Today we proved we are equally capable of scoring huge wins like the powerhouses Myanmar and Australia.

"Shereilyn was superb by scoring five and Nur Haniza Sa'arani got four.

"It also showed we can play better football and this will only give us confidence...the team will work and train harder to reach new heights," added Asyraaf.

The other scorers for Malaysia were a brace from Malini Nordin as well as own goals from Natcha Sarmiento and Luisa Marques.

Asyraaf went on to praise 20-year-old Haniza, who is the sister



Mohd Asyraaf Fong Abdullah

of national men's football team striker Fakri, and Nur Athirah Farhana, 17, describing both as having a bright future in the game.

"The young duo are arguably the most positive things to have come out from the tournament," he said.

Towards this end, Asyraaf however said there is certainly room for improvement for the national squad.

"We have proven our quality and we are no pushovers...teams like Thailand, Vietnam and Myanmar must have taken note of this.

"I'm confident with good planning, the national women football team will be a force to be reckoned with in the future," he said via Whatsapp.

For the record, 11 out of the 23-member national women squad are footballers from Sabah.

Asyraaf is assisted by coach Mohd Aiyman Shah Johny Abdullah, goalkeeper coach Irwan Jamil and physio-cum-kitman S. Mohd Salim S. Ibrahim.

