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KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 30 (BERNAMA) -- THE AMANAH SAHAM NASIONAL (ASN) SCHEME WILL PAY OUT MORE THAN \$366 MILLION TO ITS INVESTORS THIS YEAR.

OUT OF THE TOTAL SUM, \$219 MILLION ARE FOR PAYMENT OF DIVIDENDS, OF 10.2 PERCENT ON UNITS ISSUED UP TO DEC 31, ACCORDING TO A STATEMENT FROM PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, WHO IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE BUMIPUTERA INVESTMENT FOUNDATION, TODAY.

A TOTAL OF \$147 MILLION WILL BE ISSUED FOR BONUS PAYMENT OR FREE UNITS, THAT IS, AT THE RATE OF ONE FREE UNIT FOR EVERY 14.3 UNITS OWNED. THIS IS EQUIVALENT TO AN INVESTMENT RETURN OF SEVEN PERCENT FOR THIS YEAR.

THE BONUS AND DIVIDEND VOUCHERS WOULD BE POSTED TO INVESTORS IN FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR, AS HAD BEEN THE PRACTICE IN PAST YEARS, THE STATEMENT SAID.

SINCE ITS LAUNCH IN 1981 UP TO LAST YEAR, ASN HAS PAID OUT \$569.2 MILLION OR 73.2 PERCENT IN THE FORM OF DIVIDENDS AND BONUS.

UP TO END SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, MORE THAN 2,003,300 PEOPLE HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE SCHEME WITH INVESTMENTS TOTALLING \$1,818.1 MILLION. -- BERNAMA

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