

0103

B Ea33 AAE

ASN

BM

KUALA LUMPUR , NOV 25 (BERNAMA) -- PAYMENT OF DIVIDEND AND BONUS UNDER THE AMANAH SAHAM NASIONAL SCHEME FOR THIS YEAR HAS BEEN FIXED AT 13 PERCENT, AND PAYOUT WILL BEGIN IN FEBRUARY.

PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE BUMIPUTERA INVESTMENT FOUNDATION, SAID THE PAYMENT WOULD TOTAL \$504 MILLION.

IN A STATEMENT READ OUT BY ASN BHD GENERAL MANAGER ABDUL KHALID IBRAHIM AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HERE, HE SAID THE AMOUNT WAS \$87 MILLION MORE THAN WHAT WAS PAID OUT LAST YEAR.

OF THIS AMOUNT, 4352 MILLION WILL BE DIVIDENDS, EQUIVALENT TO A NINE PERCENT YIELD ON EACH UNIT UP TO DEC 31, WHILE THE BALANCE OF \$152 MILLION WILL BE PAID OUT AS BONUS OR FREE UNITS.

LAST YEAR, DIVIDEND AND BONUS PAYMENT CAME TO 14 PERCENT, TOTTALLING \$417 MILLION. -- MORE

1620MST 25 11 a7

0119

B E838 AAE

ASN 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID PAYMENT OF BONUS THIS YEAR IS EASED ON A FOUR PERCENT RETURN ON INVESTMENT OR EQUIVALENT TO ONE FREE UNIT FOR EVERY 25 UNITS PURCHASED.

HE SAID THAT SINCE THE ASN SCHEME WAS LAUNCHED IN 1981, ASN BHD HAD PAID OUT \$1,363 MILLION IN DIVIDENDS AND BONUSES WHICH, TOGETHER WITH THIS YEAR'S PAYOUT, WOULD TOTAL \$1,867 MILLION.

ENCIK ABDUL KHALID, WHO IS ALSO PERMODALAN NASIONAL BHD CHIEF EXECUTIVE, SAID THE ONE PERCENT DROP IN DIVIDEND PAYMENT OVER LAST YEAR'S, WAS BASED ON THE INTEREST RATE DECLARED BY BANKS AND WAS ALSO TO ALLOW AN ACCUMULATION OF RESERVES FOR DIVIDEND PAYMENT IN FUTURE YEARS.

THE ASN HAD ACCUMULATED \$70 MILLION IN RESERVES THIS YEAR, COMPARED WITH \$26 MILLION LAST YEAR.

ENCIK ABDUL KHALID SAID THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO HAD JOINED THE ASN FROM THE TIME THE SCHEME WAS LAUNCHED UP TO OCTOBER THIS YEAR TOTALLED 2,279,300, OR 44.7 PERCENT OF AN ESTIMATED 5.09 MILLION ELIGIBLE INVESTORS.

-- MORE

1647MST 25 11 87

0131

B E841 AAE

ASN 3 KUALA LUMPUR

NET ACCUMULATED INVESTMENT VALUE, EXCLUDING DIVIDEND AND BONUS, TOTALLED \$2,811 MILLION.

THE ASN HAD \$4,226 MILLION INVESTED IN 104 COMPANIES UP TO OCTOBER, A \$591 MILLION INCREASE OVER THE AMOUNT THAT WAS PUT INTO 114 COMPANIES AS OF DECEMBER LAST YEAR.

ENCIK ABDUL KHALID SAID ABOUT 30 PERCENT OF THE ASN INVESTMENTS WERE IN GOVERNMENT BONDS AND COMPANIES UNDER THE SCHEME TO TRANSFER GOVERNMENT-HELD EQUITY TO BUMIPUTERAS THROUGH PNB.

PNB, MEANWHILE? HAD INVESTMENTS OF \$3,058 MILLION IN 87 COMPANIES, 411 MILLION MORE THAN WHAT IT HELD IN 85 COMPANIES AT THE END OF DECEMBER LAST YEAR.

ON THE DIRECT-MAIL CAMPAIGN TO GET ASN PARTICIPANTS TO INCREASE THEIR INVESTMENTS, ENCIK ABDUL KHALID SAID 10,104 INVESTORS WERE PERSUADED TO SAVE AN ADDITIONAL TOTAL OF 627.5 MILLION SINCE EARLY 1985.

FOR THIS YEAR, AN ADDITIONAL \$10 MILLION WAS EXPECTED UNDER THE SCHEME UP TO THIS MONTH. -- MORE

0133

BE843 A A E
ASN 4 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID 117,577 GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYEES WERE SAVING WITH THE ASN THROUGH SALARY DEDUCTIONS UP TO NOV 15, CONTRIBUTING A TOTAL OF \$105 MILLION.

IN ADDITION TO STEPPING UP THE CAMPAIGN TO INCREASE INVESTMENTS? ASN BHD WOULD ALSO WIDEN ITS INVESTMENT EDUCATION SCHEME IN SCHOOLS, HE SAID.

THE PROGRAMME, LAUNCHED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE EDUCATION MINISTRY, COVERS 370 SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. -- BERNAMA
1709MST 25 11 07