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Mahathir-ASN

AMANAH SAHAM NASIONAL A MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT, SAYS DR M

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 28 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the Amanah Saham Nasional (ASN), the world's biggest unit trust, is an extraordinary success story and can be described as a monument to the country's achievement.

"This is no small achievement but a very big one. If you want to talk about monuments, this is the actual monument," the Prime Minister said when launching the Amanah Saham Wawasan 2020 scheme at Dewan Merdeka of Putra World Trade Centre here.

He said this to counter wild allegations that the government was fond of building monuments like a big airport and the tallest flagpole for its own glory.

"...but no one mentioned about this unit trust which is also the biggest in the world," he said.

He said ASN, which now has 4.4 million shareholders with investments exceeding RM20 billion, proved that the government paid attention to the people, especially those who could not seek success in business because of lack of capital.

Dr Mahathir said many countries facing the problem of inequitable distribution of wealth among its races or ethnic groups had studied the ASN system as a way to overcome their problem.

With the success of the ASN and subsequently the Amanah Saham Bumiputera, the government decided to introduce the Amanah Saham Wawasan 2020 (ASW 2020) which is open to the younger generation from all races, he said.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said the ASW 2020 scheme was a special effort by the government for the people to share in the fruits of the country's development.

"This scheme not only encourages the youths to save but the noble objective behind it is to enhance national unity," Dr Ling, who is MCA president, told reporters after the launching.

Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu also described the ASW 2020 as a good scheme and he urged parents to encourage their children to invest in it.

MIC would continue its nationwide campaign to enlighten parents on the uniqueness of this scheme, said Samy Vellu, the MIC president. -- BERNAMA

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