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ASW-Response (Round-up)

ASW 2020 SCHEME GETS ENCOURAGING RESPONSE NATIONWIDE

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 2 (Bernama) -- The Amanah Saham Wawasan (ASW) 2020 scheme offered for sale today received encouraging response nationwide and the registration forms had run out at most offices of sales agents.

Chief Executive of Kumpulan Permodalan Nasional Berhad (PNB), Datuk Mohd Hilmey Mohd Taib said up to 4.30pm. a total of 63,273,003 share units worth RM63,273,003 had been sold to Malaysians.

He said a total of 9,296,416 units priced at RM1 per unit were sold to Bumiputeras while 53,976,587 units were sold to non-Bumiputeras, he said in a statement.

He said the shares were purchased by 8,309 Bumiputeras and 11,587 non-Bumiputeras at 1,244 computerised sales centres such as banks, finance companies and post offices.

Some RM3 billion worth of shares were launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Wednesday and were offered to all Malaysian citizens aged between 12 and 29 years.

Fifty-one per cent of total shares are reserved for Bumiputeras and 49 per cent for non-Bumiputeras.

They could buy a maximum of 50,000 units.

In Seremban, the share forms were sold out soon after the banks and post offices opened for business.

State Amanah Saham Nasional Officer Sharom Bajuri said they were resupplied with fresh forms from his office.

In Alor Setar, there was encouraging response from the target group.

There were long queues at most post offices and banks which had been appointed the sales agents.

Most of the people in the line were aged between 18 and 29.

In Pulau Pinang State Amanah Saham Nasional Manager Radzali Abdul Rahman said there was good response particularly from non-Bumiputeras.

Most of the Malays crowded at post offices while the non-Bumiputeras queued up outside banks.

In Ipoh, many people did not miss the opportunity to buy Amanah Saham Wawasan 2020 units which were on sale at post offices and banks.

A Bernama check found many students and young men and women rushing to get the units.

At the Ipoh Post Office, 57 people from the target group had purchased their units by 11.30am.

Its business manager Haji Abdul Rani Haji Hussain said the number was big compared to normal days at the investment and savings counters.

He said more than 80 post offices in the state which were on-line were handling the Amanah Saham Wawasan business.

In Johor Baharu, Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman said parents in the state would be encouraged to invest in the share scheme.

This was particularly so when scholarship facility for students in the 21st century would be limited, he said.

"There will be fewer scholarships in the future and these also will be limited to outstanding students while the others will have to seek loans to finance their studies," he said.

Speaking at a news conference, after launching the scheme at state level, he expressed the hope that the scheme would get good response in the state.

Abdul Ghani said ASW 2020 could be purchased by all communities and

would be able to participate in the country's development process.

Meanwhile Selangor sold the most number of shares (RM12,103,033), Federal Territory (RM10,250,834 ), Perak (RM7,368,940 ), Pulau Pinang (RM5,286,111), Johor (RM4,615,743), Sarawak (RM4,515,022), Sabah (RM4,479,580), Kedah (RM3,298,081), Pahang (RM2,971,920), Kelantan (RM2,345,699), Negeri Sembilan (RM1,957,450), Melaka (RM1,674,740), Terengganu (RM1,286,610), Perlis (RM1,089,240) and overseas (RM30,000). --

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