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PNB-Allegation

PNB TO LOOK INTO ALLEGATION OF INVESTMENTS IN "HARAM" COUNTERS

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 19 (Bernama) -- Permodalan Nasional Bhd is to investigate an allegation that some of the funds from its unit trust schemes are invested in counters that are haram (forbidden by Islam).

PNB chairman Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid said today if the allegation is found to be true, its management will take appropriate measures to ensure that the funds are invested only in halal (permissible) counters.

"I'll have to study the matter first... also I've been the PNB chairman for just two days. Although I was previously the deputy president for a long time my position now is different," he told reporters after the fourth annual meeting of the Malaysian Institute of Islamic Understanding (IKIM) here.

Ahmad Sarji said this when asked to comment on the claim by some IKIM members at the meeting that the PNB schemes are investing in companies involved in activities that are forbidden by Islamic laws.

PNB manages the Amanah Saham Nasional, Amanah Saham Bumiputera and Amanah Saham Wawasan 2020 schemes whose investors are mostly Muslims.

Ahmad Sarji, who is also the chairman of IKIM, said the institute is considering setting up IKIM clubs for youngsters to enable them to have a better understanding of Islam.

He also said IKIM will hold a workshop early next year to discuss the issues raised by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in a speech he delivered at Oxford University last April entitled "Islam - A Misunderstood Religion".

It will be attended by 70 people from all over the world including politicians, academicians, corporate leaders and journalists, he said. --

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