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PNB WILL LAUNCH TWO MORE UNIT TRUST FUNDS WITHIN NEXT FIVE YEARS

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 28 (Bernama) -- Permodalan Nasional Bhd (PNB) plans to introduce at least two new unit trust funds within the next five years, said its Group Chief Executive, Datuk Mohd Hilmei Mohd Taib.

However, designs of the new unit funds would be more specific, both in its portfolio and purposes, he added.

Speaking to reporters after the official launching of Amanah Saham Wawasan 2020 scheme by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad here today, he said: "The new unit trust funds will have specific portfolio with smaller size fund compared to other existing schemes."

"Most probably the new unit trust funds will be open to the public just like ASW 2020, but the approach will be slightly different and more dynamic," he said.

To-date, PNB has managed to clinch at least RM23 billion in terms of savings from 1.3 million investors through Amanah Saham Nasional (ASN) and 4.4 million through Amanah Saham Bumiputera (ASB) investors.

On the ASW 2020, he said even though it was too early to touch on contributions and dividends, he was confident that investors were more attracted to the guarantee that they could get back the shares at the RM1 price offered.

Meanwhile, PNB chairman Tun Ismail Mohamed Ali in his speech said PNB needed to look for RM12.0 billion in the future to cater for the increased demands for unit trusts.

On this, Hilmei said he was confident that the amount could be obtained as PNB expected new investments to be between RM2.5 billion to RM3.0 billion yearly.

He added PNB would continue to work to increase investments to ensure that holders of the ASN, ASB and ASW 2020 units would benefit from the country's fast economic growth.

He said this included venturing into infrastructure and joint-ventures locally and abroad, adding that at present the ASB scheme was the most popular.

Meanwhile, Ismail said to manage the ASW 2020 scheme, PNB had set-up another wholly-owned subsidiary, Pengurusan Pelaburan Amanah Saham Wawasan 2020. -- BERNAMA

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