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Bank Bumi records RM255.6m pre-tax

BANK Bumiputra Malaysia Bhd's (BBMB) group pre-tax profit for the half-year ended September 30 1996 rose to RM255.634m from RM208.344m in the previous corresponding period.

However, as the bank has used up its tax credit from previous losses, after-tax profit for the period declined to RM142.735m compared with RM190.162m in the previous corresponding six months.

Group interest income for the six-month period increased to RM1.446bn from RM1.085bn, while its non-interest income rose to RM127.228m from RM102.703m.

Loan loss and provision for the period increased to RM81.340m from RM24.131m in the previous corresponding period.

Total assets of the group for the six-month period increased to RM37.587bn from RM33.153bn for the same period in the previous year, while its liabilities increased to RM35bn from RM30.925bn.

The bank is being targeted by the Government for listing.

It is owned by the Ministry of Finance Incorporated.

According to a highly placed source in the bank, the proposal for the listing, submitted by DCB-Sakura Merchant Bankers Bhd, is with the Economic Planning Unit in the Prime Minister's Department.

Meanwhile, the bank will provide a RM2.5-million grant to Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) to establish an academic and research chair on banking and finance.

BBMB head of public affairs department, Encik Baddrudin Othman, said the grant would be invested by UUM which would use the proceeds to finance the appointment of the chairholder who would assume the status of "Distinguished BBMB Professor on Banking and Finance".

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is scheduled to witness the agreement signing ceremony at UUM on Thursday.

Meanwhile, BBMB Training Centre (Pusatputra) deputy general manager, Encik A. Bakar Sulaiman, said there are more than 40 areas on which the chairholder could research.

He said with the establishment of the chair, BBMB's objective of advancing education by promoting the study of banking and finance in Malaysia would largely be fulfilled.

Bakar said the bank is also preparing its staff for the Internet banking culture through Intranet communications.

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