

ASW 2020 declares 9.8% dividend in second year

KUALA LUMPUR: Amanah Saham Wawasan 2020 (ASW 2020) has declared a dividend of 9.8%, a slight drop from the 10.1% paid out last year.

This year's dividend was the second since the scheme was launched on Aug 28, 1996.

The announcement was made by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in his capacity as chairman of the Bumiputra Investment Foundation here yesterday. His statement was read out by Permodalan Nasional Berhad chairman Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid.

Amanah Saham Nasional Bhd, which manages ASW 2020, would allocate RM170.52mil for

the dividend payout.

Up to Wednesday, there were 347,722 ASW 2020 bumiputra unit-holders with investments totalling RM324.51mil, while non-bumiputras accounted for another 486,991 with investments at RM1.24bil.

This was an improvement from the 1997 figures of 333,865 bumiputra unit-holders and 481,059 non-bumiputra unit-holders.

Dr Mahathir said bumiputras had yet to take up their share of RM1.2bil, while the share of non-bumiputras yet to be taken up was RM229.6mil.

He called on eligible Malaysians to continue investing in the scheme.

Ahmad Sarji later told reporters that the slight

drop in dividends paid out was unavoidable due to the slowdown.

He was optimistic that the ASW 2020 scheme would continue to get the support of Malaysians as could be seen by the good dividends paid out.

The ASW 2020 scheme, targeted at the young, has met good response and has grown by some 20% in terms of unit-holders and investments since it was introduced in 1996.

The dividends will be directly credited into the accounts of unit-holders starting Sept 1 while those who have met the maximum amount will have their dividends paid out via cheques by the second week of September.