

25/12/1998

Asnita declares 8pc dividend in bonus units

AMANAH Saham Wanita (Asnita), Malaysia's only trust fund for women, yesterday declared its first dividend of eight per cent, equivalent to four sen per unit for 1998.

The dividend would be in the form of bonus units, where the total number received by an investor would be calculated based on the number of units held and not in monetary terms.

And, the new units would be placed in the investors accounts commencing January 1999.

Asnita, the brainchild of Wanita Umno, is managed by Hijrah Managers Bhd which is a 51 per cent-owned subsidiary of Metrowangsa Asset Management Sdn Bhd.

The remaining 49 per cent is held by Hijrah chairman Rohani Mohd Shahir.

Announcing the dividend in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, Rohani said the board members of Hijrah Unit Trust Management Berhad had agreed to give dividend even in its eight months of existence as a long-term incentive to the investors.

Also present at the event was Metrowangsa's chief executive officer Dr Ghazali Atan.

"We hope with the dividend, Asnita investors and potential investors would be more confident with Hijrah's capabilities as the unit trust management company," she said.

Rohani said the dividend was given after considering the current market situation and other factors.

She said the price of Asnita would be adjusted from Dec 26, 1999 for the dividend distribution.

Those who invested before or on Dec 24 this year are entitled to receive a full percentage of the declared dividend, as it was not pro-rated.

The fund was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on May 5 with its initial purchase price of 50 sen per unit with the total approved fund of RM200 million.

As of Wednesday, there were a total of 70,000 unitholders with total investments of RM70 million.

"We hope more investors will buy the units, while unitholders use their dividends to increase their investments."

"The units represent attractive returns, taking into account the market conditions and those paid by other schemes."

She emphasised that Asnita would always safeguard the interest of the investors.

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