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Zaharah

FOUNDATIONS PLEDGE MILLIONS OF RINGGIT FOR ASNITA

IPOH, May 10 (Bernama) -- Several companies and foundations have promised vast investments in Asnita, the country's first trust fund for women launched five days ago, Wanita Umno leader Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Suaiman said today.

"There are also foundations prepared to invest RM1 million to RM3 million in addition to the hefty sums pledged by companies," she said.

Based on the support, she was confident that half of the 200 million shares at 50 sen each could be taken up by the year end.

She told reporters this after Asnita's state-level launching by Perak Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib here.

Perak is the first state to launch the fund following its national launching by Prime Minister Datuk Ser Dr Mahathir Mohamad on May 5.

Zaharah said Asnita had received overwhelming support since its launching, and some Bank Simpanan Nasional (BSN) branches had run out of application forms.

She was unable to specify the amount already invested in the fund but said it was a huge total sum.

According to her, Hijrah Unit Trust Management Bnd, the fund manager, could not ascertain the figure as many of its branches are yet to be placed "on-line" with its headquarters.

Siti Zaharah also said Asnita's launching for the various Barisan Nasional divisions would take place after the various states had completed their launching by May 24.

Meanwhile, speaking at the launch Ramli said women should grasp the opportunity to invest in Asnita which was offering shares about 25 per cent lower than its normal market value.

Besides serving as a long-term saving for them, their Asnita investment would help revitalise the national economy, he said.

In conjunction with Mothers Day today, Ramli came up with an undisclosed sum to open an account for his wife, Raja Puan Sri Noora Ashikin Raja Abdullah.

-- BERNAMA

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