

14 AUG 1998

A 9.8 PCT DIVIDEND DECLARED FOR ASW 2020

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 14 (Bernama) -- Permodalan Nasional Bhd (PNB) today announced a 9.8 per cent dividend payout for Amanah Saham Wawasan 2020 (ASW 2020) for the year ended Aug 31, 1998, lower than its maiden 10.1 per cent dividend declared last year.

Amanah Saham Nasional Bhd, which manages ASW 2020, will allocate RM170.52 million for the dividend payout.

ASW 2020, launched on Aug 28, 1996, offered for sale three billion units of RM1 each, 51 per cent of which were sold to Bumiputeras and 49 percent to non-Bumiputeras.

Up to Aug 12 this year, a total of 347,722 Bumiputeras had invested RM324.51 million in the fund while 486,991 non-Bumiputeras invested RM1,240.40 million.

The dividend announcement by the chairman of Yayasan Pelaburan Bumiputera, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, was read by PNB chairman Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid.

The Prime Minister said the number of unit trust investors for the year under review had increased comprising 333,865 Bumiputeras and 481,059 non-Bumiputeras.

He said there was a balance of RM1,205.50 million worth of units yet to be invested by Bumiputeras compared with RM229.60 million for non-Bumiputeras.

In view of this, he hoped that more people who are eligible to buy the ASW 2020 units would invest in unit trusts.

"I also hope the unit holders will maintain their dividends and increase their investments in unit trusts," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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