

27 NOV 1998

PNB-DIVIDEND

PNB ALWAYS ENSURES ATTRACTIVE DIVIDEND SAYS GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 27 (Bernama) -- Permodalan Nasional Bhd (PNB), the management company for Amanah Saham Bumiputera (ASB) and Amanah Saham Nasional (ASN), said it always ensures "attractive returns" for unitholders.

"Good dividends are relative in the current situation," group chief executive Encik Hamad Kama Piah Che Othman said while pointing out that investors should not expect very high dividends during the current economic downturn.

ASN and ASB dividends for this year, expected to be announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad within the next one to two weeks, would still remain as competitive as other trust unit shares, he explained.

The competitive returns are brought on because of PNB's capabilities in diversifying its portfolio and the large asset sizes of ASB and ASN, he told Bernama recently.

PNB currently manages the assets of ASB which has an investment value of RM27.3 billion and ASN which has a total capital size of RM1.5 billion.

On PNB's capacity to provide satisfactory returns during the present depressed economic situation, Hamad said it depended on the "yardstick" that is being used to measure the returns.

Compared with other trust funds shares and savings in banks, PNB had been able to prove all this while its capability in providing good returns, he said.

If the security of investment capital is used as the measuring stick, then unitholders are able to "sell their shares without losing their capital," he said pointing out that cost of one ASB unit had remained at RM1 without being disturbed by the rise and fall in the share market.

"Our trust shares have a easing period, whereby when investors who need money, can go to any of our branches, post offices, banks or a PNB agent in any part of Malaysia to withdraw money without difficulties," he added.

"There is no point if there are very high returns but difficulties arise when withdrawing money," Hamad said.

He said satisfactory returns then again were subjective as they were closely associated with risks.

When a high dividend is expected, the risk is also greater, he explained adding that ASN and ASB were investments with low risks. --

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