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PARLIAMENT-ASN2/BM
ASN2 ATTRACTS 7,000 INVESTORS

KUALA LUMPUR, July 20 (Bernama) -- ASN2, the second Amanah Saham Nasional scheme launched June 9 under the management of Permodalan Nasional Berhad (PNB), has successfully attracted 7,000 investors with a total investment amounting to 52 million units, said Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Nazri Aziz.

The investment amount was as at July 9, this year, he said while answering a question from Datuk Abdol Mulok Awang Damit (BN-Labuan) at the Dewan Rakyat today.

ASN2 which was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, allows investors in Amanah Saham Nasional (ASN), Amanah Saham Bumiputera (ASB) and Amanah Saham Wawasan 2020 (ASW 2020) who have reached their maximum level to invest in the scheme.

Nazri said that to encourage a more wider participation, PNB had organised the launch of ASN2 at state levels as well, beginning with the launch in Terengganu on July 6 and plans for similar launch in other states.

He said compared with other trust shares, ASN2 offered extras including a 20-unit free offer for 1,000 units bought between Jun 10 and Sept 30 this year.

Nazri said ASN2 also paid funeral payments to beneficiaries of qualified investors who have passed away.

ASN2 also allows contributors of the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) to use some portion of their savings in the fund to invest in its scheme, he said.

"As at Jun 30, a total of 185 EPF members have withdrawn some savings from their EPF account to invest in ASN2 with the total investments amounting to RM1,549 million," he said.

On whether the government had plans to make withdrawals from the EPF any more easier for people, particularly Bumiputeras in the lower income group, for the purpose of investment, Nazri said there were currently no plans on the part of EPF to change its conditions on withdrawals by members for investment purposes.

EPF's main objective is to provide retirement benefits for its members during their retirement time, he added.

He said members who had at least RM55,000 in their Account 1 (Retirement Account) and have not reached the age of 55 years can invest on their own a part of the savings through the 35 fund investment institutes approved by the Finance Ministry.

Investment can be made every three month from the last ammended date and the scheme is open to all Malaysian citizens, he said. -- BERNAMA

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