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INVESTORS-ASN2  
HOUSEWIVES MAKE UP CORE OF ASN2 INVESTORS

IPOH, July 21 (Bernama) -- Housewives formed the core group of ASN2 investors in the past month since Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad launched the country's latest unit trust fund.

Permodalan Nasional Bhd (PNB), the fund manager, said housewives have already snapped up 12 million of the 74 million ASN2 units sold so far.

Businessmen and administrators were the next largest group taking up 10 million units followed by executives with seven million units, said PNB chief executive Hamad Kama Piah Che Othman.

Altogether 9,000 people have bought ASN2 units nation-wide since its launch, he told reporters at a PNB get-together with Perak-based media members here last night.

State-wise, Selangor led with the most number of ASN2 units sold with 18 million followed by the Federal Territory with 15 million.

ASN2 sales ranking for the other states so far are;

- \* Johor - seven million units;
- \* Sarawak - four million units; and
- \* Perak - 300,000 units.

ASN2 investors can buy a minimum of 1,000 units at RM1 each and Hamad said that PNB was optimistic that it could attain the targeted one billion units by end of September.

This was based on the anticipation that more Bumiputera Employees Provident Fund (EPF) contributors would take advantage of the facility to buy ASN2 units using their EPF savings, he said.

Of the 74 million ASN2 units taken up so far, only 13 million units were bought using EPF contributions, he said.

ASN2 is the only PNB-managed unit trust fund open to Bumiputera EPF contributors.

As for normal investment, the ASN2 is open to Bumiputeras aged 18 and above.

Hamad said Bumiputera investors intending to use their EPF contributions to buy ASN2 units can check their eligibility at one-stop centres which PNB would put up during state-level launching of ASN2.

He also said non-Bumiputera response to the Wawasan 2020 trust fund which PNB started for them had been very encouraging.

They had so far taken up 1.5 billion units, almost reaching the quota set for them, he added.

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