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PNB plans to invest in dotcom firms

PENANG, Fri. - Permodalan Nasional Berhad will invest in new cyber-based companies or popularly known as dot.com companies.

"We will surely invest in high-end information technology companies," group chief executive Hamad Kama Piah Che Othman said.

"However, we will be very cautious when selecting them."

Hamad Kama Piah said this to reporters after the State-level launching of the Amanah Saham Malaysia unit trust fund by Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon at the Shangri-La Hotel.

He said the PNB aimed to be a world class investment arm of the people.

"As fund managers, we will administer the people's money cautiously and only in worthy sectors and companies that can give good returns. We have a balanced and diversified investment strategy that will give the investors a win-win situation at all times."

At present, the PNB is investing in 322 companies, including Golden Hope Plantations Bhd, Kumpulan Guthrie Bhd, Sime Darby Bhd and Austral Enterprise Bhd, Malayan Banking Bhd, MNI Holdings Bhd, Pos Malaysia Bhd, and Hitachi Semiconductor Sdn Bhd.

To date, the ASM, launched by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on April 20, has recorded a total RM1.28 billion from 187,000 investors.

The investors included 13 six month-old babies. Penang so far has a total of 12,914 investors with RM69 million in new ASM investments.

This places Penang in 6th place compared to other States in total investments.

The ASM, one of six unit trust funds by PNB, is open to all citizens, age six months and above. The minimum investment is RM100 and the public can invest up to RM50,000 each.

The PNB's other unit trusts funds are the Amanah Saham Nasional, Amanah Saham Bumiputera, Amanah Saham Wawasan 2020, Amanah Saham Nasional 2 and Amanah Hartanah PNB.

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