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PNB-MAHATHIR

DR MAHATHIR WILL LAUNCH NEW PNB UNIT TRUST

KOTA BAHARU, April 12 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will launch a new Permodalan Nasional Bhd (PNB) unit trust on April 20.

PNB group chief executive Datuk Hamad Kama Piah Che Othman said that the launch will be held in conjunction with the Malaysian Unit Trust Week (MSAM) 2001, at the Kota Baharu Municipality Council Hall here.

Dr Mahathir will announce details of the new unit trust, he told reporters after sending off a Taxi Squad (trishaws) to publicise the MSAM 2001 here today.

PNB manages Amanah Saham Nasional (ASN), Amanah Saham Bumiputera (ASB), Amanah Saham Wawasan 2020 (ASW 2020), Amanah Harta Tanah PNB (AHP), Amanah Saham Nasional 2 (ASN2) and Amanah Saham Malaysia (ASM).

Hamad said that PNB invests in big companies which are able to face any risks, and had efficient fund managers.

PNB investors need not worry about their investments although the US is facing an economic slowdown, he said.

He said that since its set up in 1981, PNB has always been cautious where its investments are concerned, so that it would not incur any losses.

Hamad said that based on the current record, some companies had still managed to register profits during the economic slowdown, which indirectly helped to provide a balance to the situation.

He said that since its set-up, PNB has succeeded in mobilising some RM36 billion capital from more than seven million unit trust holders, majority of which were bumiputeras.

Within that period, RM33 billion in the form of dividends were disbursed to investors.

On the five-day MSAM 2001 beginning April 20, he said that it strives to educate the people on investment, as well as the risks and returns.

MSAM 2001, which is expected to attract some 200,000 visitors, is organised jointly by PNB and the Federation of Malaysian Unit Trust Managers (FMUTM).

Themed "Saham Amanah-Pilihan Pelabur Bijak," MSAM 2001 will showcase an exhibition, investment forums and seminars, investments competition and quiz, essay writing competition and other related events.

This is the second MSAM held. The first one was in Kuala Lumpur in April last year.

Hamad said that 70 companies from various sector will take part in the exhibition, which will enable the public to know more about the companies in which PNB had invested in.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi is expected to close the MSAM 2001 on April 24. -- BERNAMA

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