

20 APR 2001  
Mahathir-Unit Trust  
PM LAUNCHES AMANAH SAHAM DIDIK

KOTA BAHARU, April 20 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today launched Amanah Saham Didik (ASD), yet another new unit trust fund run by Permodalan Nasional Berhad (PNB).

ASD, the seventh unit trust fund operated by PNB will, among others, help parents save for their children's future education.

The Prime Minister launched the fund in conjunction with the national-level Malaysian Unit Trust Week here.

Also present at the launch were Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat, PNB chairman Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali.

ASD is open to Bumiputeras of 18-years and above and parents or guardians who have children below 18-years old. They can invest for their children between the ages of six months and 17 years.

The RM300 million ASD fund is offering each unit at RM1 and an individual is allowed a maximum investment of 100,000 units.

The unit trust funds managed by PNB are Amanah Saham Nasional, Amanah Saham Bumiputera, Amanah Saham Wawasan 2020, Amanah Harta Tanah PNB, Amanah Saham Nasional 2 and Amanah Saham Malaysia.

The Prime Minister said in his speech that the ASD would be helpful for parents who want to save for their children's tertiary education.

He added that the ASD was launched solely for that purpose although many think school fees for Bumiputeras should be borne by the government without any conditions attached.

"Although we can absorb the fees, parents too should be a source of finance for the children. That is why when we invest in the Saham Amanah Didik, we can hope for this savings to be used for children's education irrespective of whether they receive any scholarship.

He said saving for the future was a good habit and must be encouraged not because one is asked to do so but because of its benefits.

"I am optimistic that Amanah Saham Didik will receive overwhelming response not only as an attractive investment but also of the benefits that can be derived from it," he said.

The Prime Minister said he was not only proud that PNB had succeeded in pooling RM37 billion in funds for investment from Bumiputeras but had also managed the funds well.

He added that PNB had also given out RM31 billion in dividends.

Dr Mahathir and his wife later toured the Malaysian Unit Trust Week 2001 exhibition held in collaboration with the Federation of Malaysian Unit Trust Managers. The exhibition ends on April 24.

--BERNAMA

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