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FELDA-LISTING

CABINET STILL WAITING FOR MOF'S REPORT ON FELDA'S LISTING

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 27 (Bernama) -- The Cabinet is still waiting for a detailed report by the Finance Ministry on the proposed listing of Felda on the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange (KLSE), Felda group chairman Tan Sri Dr Yusof Mohd Noor said today.

"I was told that the Cabinet is still waiting for the paper on the proposed listing," he told reporters after the opening of the Felda Entrepreneurship Symposium and Expo 2003 by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC), here.

The plan to list Felda on the KLSE was announced in September by Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, then Prime Minister and Finance Minister, while presenting the 2004 Budget in Parliament.

Felda's listing would enable it to generate funds from the capital market and it would not have to depend on the Government for its financial support.

Last month, Land and Co-operative Development Ministry Parliamentary Secretary Dr Robia Kosai assured settlers at the 300 Felda land schemes nationwide that their rights would not be affected by the listing.

She had said settlers would get share allocations and other benefits which would help improve their socio-economic status.

Felda may be valued at between RM11.7 billion and RM33.7 billion after it is reorganised into a public company and traded on the KLSE.

It was reported that the Felda community is expected to control 33 per cent equity, worth about RM3.3 billion, in Felda Holdings Berhad when it is listed.

It was proposed that 10 per cent equity be given to the 103,000 settlers alone, instead of the original 10 per cent for the entire Felda community which comprised settlers and staff.

It was also proposed that five per cent of the RM10 billion listing be allocated to the Felda staff.

Besides that, the Felda settlers and staff who hold 51 per cent and 49 per cent equity respectively in Koperasi Peneroka Felda would indirectly benefit from the 18 per cent equity allocated to the co-operative.

This would bring their total shareholding to 33 per cent.

The estates involved in the listing are those owned by Felda covering 354,000ha. The 837,000ha owned by the settlers will not be touched.

-- BERNAMA

SM MKO