

20/04/2003

A well-informed investment society

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HE who waits upon fortune, is never sure of a dinner. Inventor and economist Benjamin Franklin might have coined those words more than two centuries ago, but it is still adaptable today.

One must be smart and quick in seizing opportunities, so as to make a fortune. Proper financial planning and knowing when to make the right investments are crucial in ensuring that one gets the best returns from the money they invested.

This is the task that awaits Permodalan Nasional Bhd (PNB). As the country's biggest investment manager, it is responsible in educating Malaysians on making smart investments to help boost their socio-economic well-being.

To get more people to understand the terms 'unit trust' and 'financial planning' better, PNB has come up with various efforts and activities, including the annual 'Minggu Saham Amanah Malaysia' (MSAM). (The idea of 'MSAM' came about during the 'Minggu Pelaburan Bersama PNB' held on June 9, 1999.)

Launched on April 20, 2000, MSAM aims to give integrated and continuous education in investments and to enhance the understanding of financial planning among the society.

The first MSAM was held in Kuala Lumpur (2000), followed by Kota Baru, Kelantan (2001) and Alor Setar, Kedah (2002). The MSAM programme has attracted thousands of people to find out what investing in unit trust funds is all about.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the opening of the MSAM 2000 at Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur said the event can help increase the knowledge of Malaysians on the objectives and roles of unit trust funds in shaping a better national economy.

"We hope that with this knowledge, Bumiputera and non-Bumiputeras would know what needs to be done to sustain our economy and maintain our freedom," he said, referring to getting Malaysians to invest in the right funds to boost the nation's economy and preventing from being financially colonised by other powering countries.

This year's MSAM at Merdeka Stadium in Kuala Lumpur is definitely one not to be missed. It's a bit special this year, as the MSAM also coincides with the celebration of PNB's 25th anniversary.

With the theme 'Saham Amanah - The choice of a smart investor', the highlight this year would also be the newly-launched Amanah Saham Gemilang (ASG), PNB's eighth unit trust fund introduced just last month.

Opened to all Malaysians, ASG is based on an umbrella concept with three unit trust funds under it - Amanah Saham Pendidikan (education), Amanah Saham Kesihatan (health) and Amanah Saham Persaraan (retirement).

(See sidebar for more details on ASG.)

Not only that, MSAM 2003 would be the one-stop centre to answer all your queries pertaining to PNB's two property trust funds - Amanah Harta Tanah 1 and Amanah Harta Tanah 2 - as well as its eight equity based funds - Sekim Amanah Saham Nasional (ASN), Skim Amanah Saham Bumiputera (ASB), Amanah Saham Wawasan 2020 (ASW 2020), Amanah Saham Nasional 2 (ASN 2), Amanah Saham Malaysia (ASM), Amanah Saham Didik (ASD), Amanah Saham Nasional 3 Imbang (ASN 3) and the ASG.

This integrated education will give exposure and useful knowledge about the benefit and importance of investing in unit trust to the investors.

Besides that, MSAM 2003 will also be a platform for explaining the role and responsibility of PNB and all parties that move the unit trust industry regulatory authorities, PNB investment companies, Amanah Saham Nasional Bhd agents, and unit trust fund managers under the ambit of Federation of Malaysian Unit Trust Managers - in the country's economic development.

Among the interesting activities planned by PNB during the week include exhibitions, financial planning seminars, 'PNB Investment Challenge 2003' and investment quizzes for university and secondary students. There will also be a street soccer tournament, 'Mari Bersama Along' sessions and netball and tug-of-war competitions.

On the whole, MSAM 2003 is set to be the event to be enjoyed by the whole family, as it aims to create a well-informed investment society.

\* NOTE: MSAM is a programme for investors and is organised by PNB. April 20 also represents the anniversary of the launch of Sekim Amanah Saham Nasional, PNB's first unit trust scheme.