

17/03/2003

An analyst's view

PERMODALAN Nasional Bhd, the country's largest fund manager, has projected dynamism beyond expectations, making it the envy of fund and asset management companies in this region.

Its "opportunistic" and "risk taking" attitude in investing in large-scale economic activities has been well received by the public and business community.

Apart from assisting the Bumiputera community, it has participated also in nation-building with its assistance to the non-Bumiputeras too.

PNB had not only impacted the capital market but has also created spinoffs in the economy over the past 25 years.

This can be identified in the number of multinational companies, IT companies, conglomerates and plantation companies it has set up or acquired over these years.

Although PNB is sometimes looked as being a laid back institutional investor keen on plantation companies, it is very much in IT industry too as seen by HeiTech Padu Bhd activities.

"All these put PNB as one of the strongest fund management companies as well as an asset management bank," noted the research manager of a stockbroking company.

It has also created numerous high profiles in the corporate sector - Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim, Datuk Mohamad Hilmey Mohamad Taib and Datuk Mohamad Desa Pachi, to name a few.

PNB's success story has inspired others in the region to follow suit.

Convincing eight million Bumiputeras to invest RM40 billion in the share market and other financial activities only showed PNB's efficiency.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad also said last month that he had never dreamt that the Bumiputeras could invest such a big sum in shares and attributed the success to PNB and the New Economic Policy.

Much of the success should be attributed to PNB's first chairman Tun Ismail Mohamed Ali, added the research manager.

With its research institute that was set up several years ago to groom niche-type professionals like analysts and portfolio managers.

Where to from here?

"If the Government relaxes rules on investments overseas, this would augur well for PNB which will then be able to diversify its portfolio and assets."