

ASM to offer one billion new units from Monday

By Rosli Zakaria and
Sean Augustin
news@nst.com.my

KUALA TERENGGANU: Amanah Saham Malaysia, is offering an additional one billion units to Malaysians following the success of its two schemes.

The announcement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi yesterday will boost the Government's effort to encourage more investment among the people.

"This is in line with the Ninth Malaysia Plan's goal to provide more investment opportunities for the people to help them build a better" said Abdullah.

The one billion units will be priced at RM1 a unit, and will be open for sale at all Amanah Saham Nasional Bhd branches and its agents from Monday.

Abdullah, who launched the Permodalan Nasional Bhd's seventh investors' week at Primula Beach resort and an exhibition at Pantai Batu Burok, said the move by PNB would help the Government in the distribution of wealth.

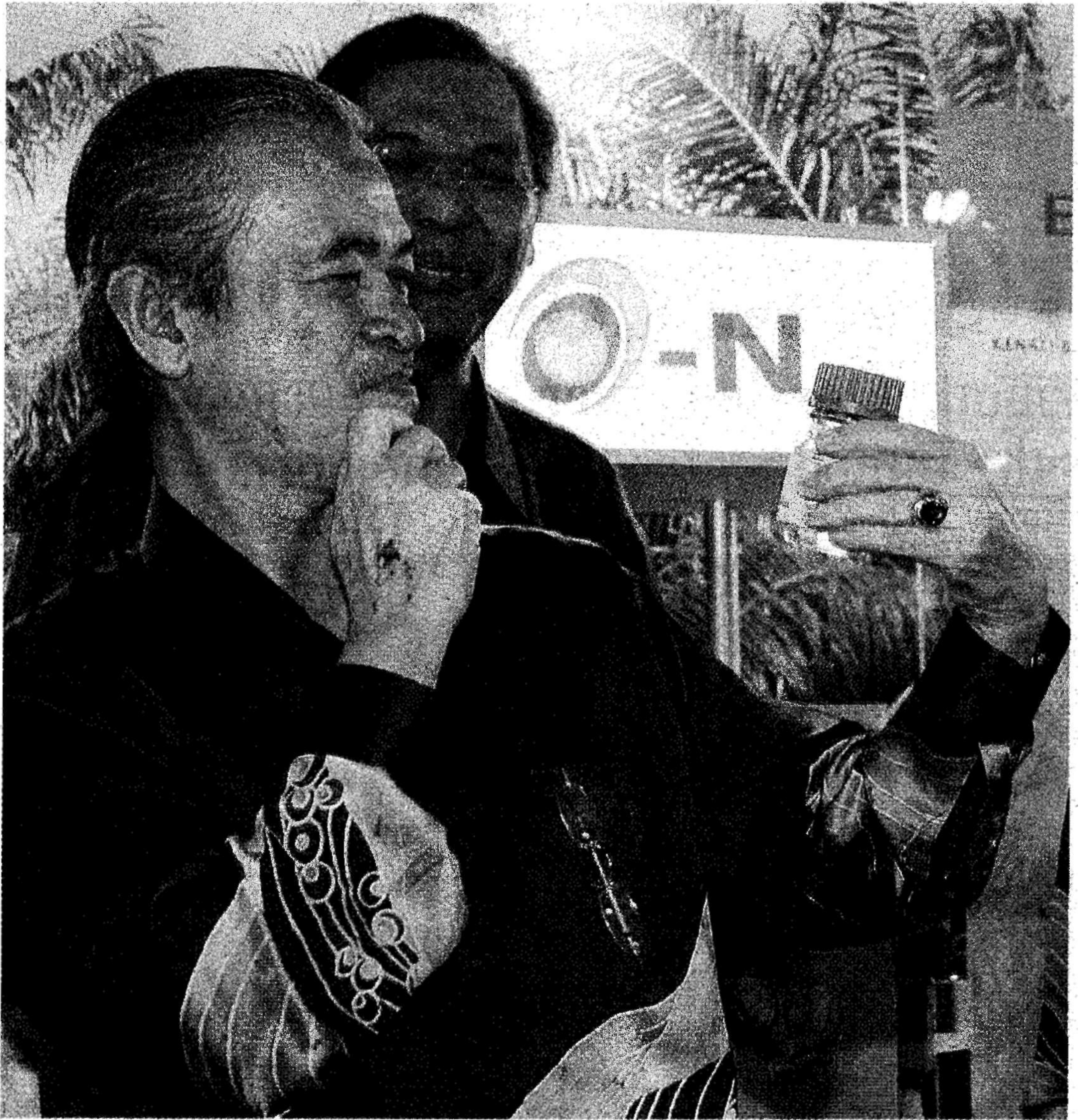
"The people can indirectly invest in companies through PNB. There is no other country in the world that is offering schemes similar to the ASM.

"From a small start, PNB has amassed investments totalling 57.7 billion units from 8.4 million investors in its unit trust schemes. They are investing in big and profitable companies," he added.

He expects the new units to be subscribed almost immediately, similar to the success of previous units under similar schemes.

"Investing in unit trusts will yield dividends, and is much better and safer than keeping your money under the pillow," he said.

He commended PNB for its initiative in economic, social and human resource development activities as well as ventures into new fields using its own resources.



Abdullah looking at a sample of the Bio-N, while Golden Hope group chief executive Datuk Sabri Ahmad briefs him on the product. — NST picture by Imran Makhzan

PNB's involvement in the production of biodiesel will be a venture Malaysians can be proud of.

He was referring to PNB-owned Golden Hope Plantations Bhd's product called the Bio-N.

By August, Golden Hope Planta-

tions expects to export some 390,000 tonnes of Bio-N to Japan, Korea and Europe.

"There are many opportunities, and we only need to discover them through initiatives and research to turn them into new products that

will enhance our economy," Abdullah said.

On the East, Coast Corridor, he said the move was to ensure that development in Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang was on par with developed states in the west coast.