

Sharing wealth with all races

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PNB offer to non-bumis mirrors govt plan

KUANTAN: Permodalan Nasional Berhad's (PNB) offering of unit trusts to non-bumiputras prove that the Government aspires for a fair distribution of wealth among the people, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

The Prime Minister said the Government had always advised the people, irrespective of their race or religion, to invest for their future.

"Only investment instruments such as unit trusts can bring about good returns in the long term and improve the financial status of the people.

"PNB's efforts have provided the right platform to educate the people, and increase knowledge pertaining to smart investments," he said when closing the Malaysian Unit Trust Week here yesterday.

Also present were Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob, PNB chairman Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid, PNB president and group chief executive Tan Sri Hamad Kama Piah Che Othman.

Abdullah, who is also the Finance Minister, expressed regret over individuals being taken in by fake Internet investment schemes.

"The people must avoid being duped into par-

ticipating in such schemes.

"Instead, invest in recognised institutions such as PNB that provide competitive returns yearly," he said.

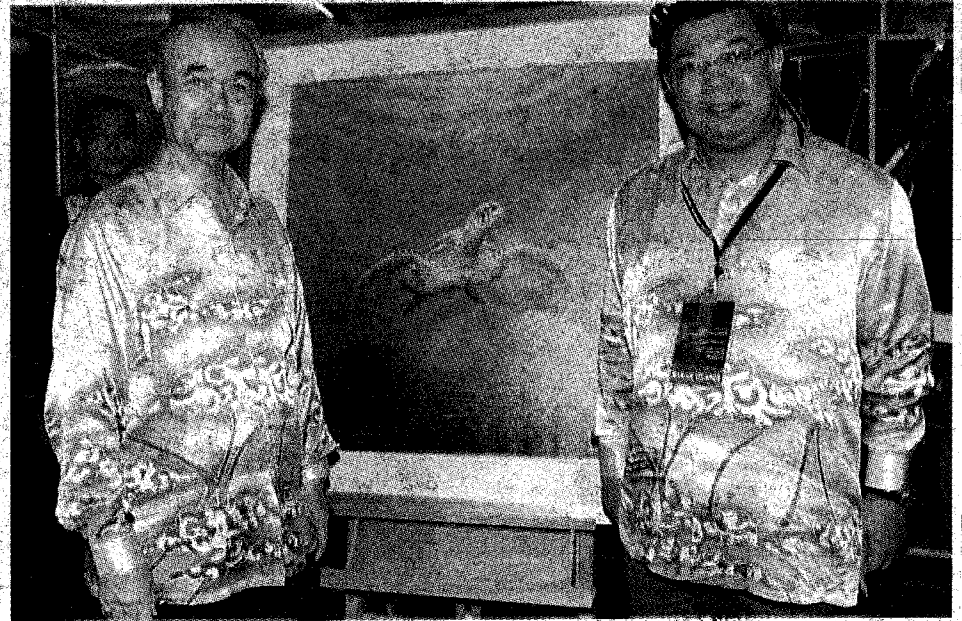
Abdullah said since its inception 26 years ago, PNB had grown by leaps and bounds to manage funds worth RM100bil from some 8.6 million investors.

"Many foreign countries have started to enquire more about PNB's mechanism to emulate its success.

"I am told that PNB has entered the international financial market, which can boost its capabilities and open up opportunities for its fund managers in global market research."

Abdullah said he was confident that Malaysian firms had the human capital and ability to compete internationally, adding that PNB had overcome many challenges including the 1997 economic downturn, without having to dispose any of its companies such as Guthrie, Golden Hope and Sime Darby.

Later, Abdullah launched the book *One Country, One Vision*, published in conjunction with the country's 50th Merdeka anniversary this year.



Gift for PM: Abdullah posing in front of a painting of a hawksbill turtle which Sime Darby Bhd group chief executive Datuk Ahmad Zubir Murshid (right) presented to him at the exhibition held in conjunction with the Malaysian Unit Trust Week in Kuantan yesterday. The painting called *Blue Odyssey* is by Zainurin 'Ajis' Mohamad.