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# 'Unit trusts gave wealth to people'

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**BENEFICIAL:** Public will enjoy profits from development, says Najib

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**T**HE introduction of unit trusts by Permodalan Nasional Bhd (PNB) has enabled the people to enjoy the nation's wealth through low-risk investment.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said PNB unit trust funds, such as Amanah Saham Bumiputera, Amanah Saham Nasional and Amanah Saham Gemilang, had provided opportunities to the public to invest and enjoy the profits from development.

"The country's wealth can be distributed and shared with the public at a minimal risk since the government had asked PNB to protect its investors through good management practices.

"That is why PNB assets have reached RM267 billion," he said when launching Minggu Saham Amanah Malaysia (MSAM) or Malaysia Unit Trust Week at Tapah Mini Stadium here yesterday.

Present were the prime minister's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir, PNB chairman Tun Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid and PNB president and group chief executive officer Tan Sri Hamad Kama Piah Che Othman.

Najib said PNB had educated the public on financial planning and debt management, which are important aspects for each individual and family.

"Investment, personal and family



**Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak** launching Minggu Saham Amanah Malaysia (MSAM) at the Tapah Mini Stadium in Tapah yesterday. With him are (from left) Permodalan Nasional Bhd (PNB) president and group chief executive officer **Tan Sri Hamad Kama Piah Che Othman**, PNB chairman **Tun Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid** and Perak Menteri Besar **Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir**. Pic by L. Manimaran

financial management are very important. If we are smart in managing the cost of living, lifestyle and indebtedness, we can face the challenges ahead and succeed in our life."

He said household debt was quite alarming as it had increased from 87 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in 2014 to 89 per cent of the GDP last year.

While some of the debts, such as housing and car loans, could not be avoided, he said a person could control debts that came from other expenditures and the use of credit cards.

Najib urged other corporations to emulate PNB and become regional and global champions.

"We should not think that we can excel only locally. We must go be-

yond and expand, even to Istanbul or New York, like what PNB has done," he said.

"We must set our own destiny and should never allow foreigners to decide our future."

He said PNB had proven that locals were more than capable to handle big corporations like PNB.

He said the construction of a 118-storey building in Kuala Lumpur, known as Merdeka PNB 118, would become the new landmark for PNB and Bumiputera success.

Earlier, Sarji said PNB had recorded five major achievements to boost Bumiputera participation in unit trust saving.

He said PNB had 208.4 billion share units subscribed by 12.65 million investors.

At the same time, he said, the in-

vestment agency collected RM268 billion in funds.

In terms of corporate equity holders, he said, PNB was the major equity holder in 200 companies from various sectors, such as Maybank (47.75 per cent), Sime Darby (54.66 per cent), S P Setia (68.41 per cent), UMW Holdings (56.11 per cent), Prolintas (100 per cent), and Malaysian Industrial Development Finance Bhd (100 per cent).

Sarji said PNB had recorded an outstanding performance in ownership of fixed assets worth RM5.4 billion from 50 types of properties.

"As part of the income distribution to date (March 2016), PNB had disbursed a competitive dividends and bonuses to its unit's shareholders totalling RM145 billion since 1981," he said.

At the function, Zambry had also announced that the mini stadium here would be renamed after Sarji, who hailed from Tapah.

Meanwhile, Ahmad Zunairi Ahmad Termizi, 36, from Sitiawan, won a Ford Fiesta at MSAM here yesterday.

Zunairi, who is an officer at the Batang Padang Land and District Office, won the lucky draw grand prize on the opening day.

"I did not know about this contest until I saw my colleagues collecting the forms from newspapers.

"I had submitted 130 applications and it took me two days to collect them with the help of family members," he said.

Najib presented a cardboard cut-out of the car after he launched MSAM 2016 here yesterday.