

PM: RM187.1b dividend payout by PNB since establishment

PERMODALAN Nasional Bhd (PNB) has provided cumulative dividend returns of RM187.1 billion to its unit-holders in over 40 years since its establishment, said Prime Minister (PM) Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

In a special video recording aired at the launch of the Minggu Saham Amanah Malaysia 2019 in Sungai Petani yesterday, Dr Mahathir said PNB managed to accumulate and expand its assets to reach RM298.5 billion with a total of 13.8 million account holders and total assets under management worth RM236.6 billion.

He also commended PNB for its strong track record of delivering competitive and sustained dividends to its unitholders, which is reflected in its cumulative dividend payout of RM187.1 billion.

"This achievement is a testimony of the strong governance and professionalism of the past and present leadership at PNB in mobilising the wealth of its unitholders.

"The preservation of values such as integrity and trust has enabled PNB to avoid lapses in governance that had occurred in other institutions in recent years," he said.

The PM expects PNB to continue upholding these values throughout its journey of fulfilling its mandate of enhancing the wealth of Bumiputeras and all Malaysians.

Dr Mahathir also reminded



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the leadership and management of PNB not to be complacent in fulfilling its responsibility and obligation in pursuing the hopes and aspirations of its investors.

The PM said the responsibility shouldered by PNB is very heavy as investors are always after good returns on investment to improve their quality of life.

He said the abuse of power in governance, deterioration of integrity, fraudulent practices and corruption, as well as leakages that had been occurring in other investment institutions should be avoided in PNB.

He said if irregularities were to occur in PNB, the dignity of Bumiputeras will also be marred forever because the role of PNB is not just confined to economic interest,

but also social interest.

PNB yesterday announced scholarships for 200 students from B40 (the bottom 40% income group) to expand access to education to the less fortunate in the country.

Its group chairman Tan Sri Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz said the scholarships are meant for 100 needy students from boarding schools and another 100 from Majlis Amanah Rakyat (Mara) junior science colleges.

"This is one of PNB's social responsibility efforts to improve the economic status and livelihood of the poor," she said in Sungai Petani.

Zeti said since 1996, PNB has disbursed scholarships worth over RM200 million to more than 4,000 recipients to pursue higher education. — *Bernama*