

**ASNB Announces Income Distribution Of 6.05 Sen Per Unit For ASN
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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 27 (Bernama) -- Amanah Saham Nasional Bhd (ASNB), a wholly-owned unit of Permodalan Nasional Bhd (PNB), on Tuesday announced an income distribution of 6.05 sen per unit for Sekim Amanah Nasional (ASN) for the financial year ending December 31, 2011, compared with the income distribution of six sen per unit declared last year.

PNB chairman Tun Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid said the income distribution would involve a payment of RM92.8 million that would benefit 1.2 million unit holders who currently hold a total of 1.5 billion ASN units.

Ahmad Sarji said the ASN income distribution was calculated based on the units held on Dec 31, 2011, the last day of the ASN financial year and would be automatically credited into the unit holders' accounts based on the net asset value of ASN as at the last day of the year.

All transactions for ASN at the ASNB headquarters, ASNB offices and agents have been suspended beginning Dec 27, 2011 until 2 Jan, 2012 to facilitate the calculation of income distribution.

Ahmad Sarji also said ASN's performance throughout the current financial year was generally better despite the challenging scenario of the stock market and global economy.

"The FBM KLCI registered a decrease of 1.5 per cent to 1,496.15 points on Dec 23, 2011 from 1,518.91 points recorded on Dec 31, 2010," he said at a press conference to announce ASN's income distribution for 2011.

Up to Dec 23, he said ASN recorded a gross income of RM114.67 million and of that amount, profit from the sale of shares contributed RM58.71 million or 51.2 per cent.

He said this was followed by dividend income from investment in companies, which contributed RM43.33 million or 37.8 per cent while the balance of RM12.63 million or 11 per cent was derived from other instruments.

Meanwhile, PNB President and Group Chief Executive Tan Sri Hamad Kama Piah Che Othman said he hoped for a better economic environment next year so that PNB could provide better returns to its unit holders.

He said PNB would continue to select stocks to strengthen its portfolio in order to enable it to provide good returns to its unit holders.

Hamad said PNB's total assets under management currently stood at RM190 billion.

He also said PNB planned to open a branch in the United States next year.

"We want to open another office overseas. We are looking for a suitable location (in the US). We are targeting next year. We already have offices in London, Tokyo and Singapore," he added.

Hamad added Skim Amanah Rakyat (SARA) 1Malaysia, which would benefit households with incomes below RM3,000 per month, was expected to be launched in mid-January.

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