

**ASNB Declares 6.60 Sen Dividend For ASM Investors**  
**Bernama**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, March 19 (Bernama) -- Amanah Saham Nasional Bhd (ASNB), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Permodalan Nasional Bhd (PNB), Wednesday announced a 6.60 sen dividend for a unit of Amanah Saham Malaysia (ASM) for the financial year ending March 31, 2014.

The 6.60 sen income distribution is higher than the 6.50 sen normal dividend and 0.30 sen special dividend per unit paid last year, PNB Chairman Tun Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid said.

He said the income distribution entails RM947.10 million in total payout, up from RM913.85 million last year.

The payment will benefit 530,000 unitholders, who currently hold 14.34 billion ASM units, he told a press conference.

PNB President and Chief Executive Officer Tan Sri Hamad Kama Piah Che Othman said the income distribution could have been as high as 8.8 sen per unit, but the group decided to carry forward the remaining 2.2 sen per unit to the next financial year.

Until March 17, ASM had recorded a gross income of RM1.16 billion, while profit from the sale of shares contributed 46.8 per cent of the gross income.

Dividend income from investment in companies contributed 37.4 per cent, with the remaining 15.8 per cent coming from investments in short-term instruments.

The income distribution will be reinvested in additional units and be automatically credited into unitholders' accounts on April 1, to enable them to benefit on the return from the growth of the ASM fund units.

ASM transactions at all branches and agents nationwide will be suspended on March 23-31 to facilitate the calculation of income distribution, and unitholders can update their investment books beginning April 1.

On the progress of PNB's Menara Warisan Merdeka that is estimated to be valued at RM5 billion, he said piling works are ongoing and the structure will be completed by end-2018.

"The overall works for Menara Warisan Merdeka are expected to be completed by 2024," he added.

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