

# Payout of 4.25 sen for Amanah Saham Bumiputera

Investors will also get special 30th Anniversary Ehsan payment of 0.75 sen a unit for their first 30,000 units

In addition, all ASB unit holders will receive a special 30th Anniversary Ehsan payment of 0.75 sen per unit for their first 30,000 units.

PNB group chairman Tan Sri Zeti Aziz commended the unit trust's competitive distribution against the backdrop of volatile financial markets.

"ASB's performance remains competitive relative to other low-risk investment instruments. ASB continues to be a sound option for individuals with a low risk profile and a long-term investment horizon," she said in a statement.

She noted that ASB's portfolio diversification strategy has continued to see progress in 2020, with increased exposure to international equities, private equity, real estate and fixed income.

Currently, its share of international assets has grown to 5.9% from 3.6% in 2019.

"Amidst global market volatility, this strategy has begun to yield positive results, with the proportion of gross income contribution from international public equity increasing from 6.3% in 2019 to 24.2% in 2020," said Zeti.

Meanwhile, PNB's total assets under management grew to RM320.5 billion as at November 2020, a 2.7% rise from the previous year.

The total number of units in circulation for its 15 funds grew by 3.4% to 263.2 billion, with more than 200,000 new accounts registered for the year bringing the total number of accounts to 14.5 million, with 12.2 million unique account holders.

PNB recorded a total payout of RM11.2 billion across all funds in 2020, bringing its cumulative income distribution payout since inception to RM211.4 billion.

**PETALING JAYA:** Permodalan Nasional Bhd's (PNB) unit trust management, Amanah Saham Nasional Bhd (ASNB), has declared a total distribution of 4.25 sen per unit for the financial year ending Dec 31 for its Amanah Saham Bumiputera (ASB) which translates into a total payout of RM7.6 billion for its 10.2 million unit holders.

The payout consists of a distribution of 3.5 sen and a bonus of 0.75 sen per unit.

## Zeti: PNB will continue to focus on long-term strategy

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Permodalan Nasional Bhd's (PNB) will continue to focus on the long-term investment strategy and will not be distracted by short-term volatility, said group chairman Tan Sri Dr. Zeti Aziz.

She said the strategy will be based on PNB's assessment of the fundamental while tactfully navigating the short to medium-term challenges to generate sustainable returns.

"This is important, because we need to focus on the long term (strategies) and generate sustainable returns over time, not to do well in one particular year, and then do

badly in another year," she said.

Zeti said this at a virtual press conference after announcing the Amanah Saham Bumiputera income distribution for the financial year ending December 2020 yesterday.

Asked if PNB would be able to maintain high dividend payout for ASB in the future, Zeti said like any other institution asset manager and investment firm, the performance of ASB and other unit trust funds under PNB would be affected by global and domestic economic developments, as well as the impact on the financial and other asset markets.

"With improvements in the outlook for global and domestic economy following the vaccine deployment, most economies are expected to allow for a gradual reopening of economies and global trade.

"These positive developments have also been reflected in the improved performance and domestic equity indices and other asset markets," she said.

However, she said lingering issues and risks surrounding the positive developments would result in a structural shift in the global economy post Covid-19 pandemic. - Bernama

## Econpile raises RM41.2m from private placement

**PETALING JAYA:** Econpile Holdings Bhd has raised RM41.2 million through a private placement exercise, involving the issuance of 80 million new shares at 51.5 sen each.

The issuance of placement shares to institutional investors represented 6% of the group's existing total number of issued shares of 1.31 billion, increasing its enlarged number of issued shares to 1.42 billion.

The new shares will be listed on the Main Market of Bursa Malaysia Securities today.

Executive director and group CEO Raymond Pang said while it has shareholders' mandate to issue up to 10% of new shares of the group's total share base, it only issued 6% just to raise a requisite amount to fund its working capital and for partial repayment of banker's acceptance.

## Aspen to move SGX listing from Catalist to Mainboard

**PETALING JAYA:** Aspen Group Holdings Ltd has received approval in principle from Singapore Exchange for the transfer of its listing from the Catalist-sponsored regime to the SGX-ST Mainboard.

The group's president and CEO Datuk M Murly said the move to Mainboard will increase the group's exposure to investors and allow it to better tap into capital markets.

"We are pleased to have received the approval in-principle from SGX. We have been listed on the Catalist Board for approximately 3.5 years and the group has achieved many milestones during such period. Recently, the group has also diversified its business into the healthcare sector with the manufacturing and distribution of high-quality medical grade latex and nitrile gloves," he said.

Aspen was listed on Catalist on July 28, 2017.