ASNB DECLARES INCOME DISTRIBUTION FOR AMANAH SAHAM BUMIPUTERA (ASB) AND AMANAH SAHAM NASIONAL (ASN)

- Amanah Saham Nasional Berhad (ASNB) announces an income distribution of 6.75 sen a unit and a bonus of 0.50 sen a unit for its flagship fund, Amanah Saham Bumiputera (ASB) for the financial year ending 31 December 2016.

- 2016 has been a challenging year, where the FBM KLCI registered a total return of -1.7% for the year to date, as at 30 November 2016, making this its third consecutive year of negative returns. At the same time, interest rates remained low, commodity prices were depressed and currencies recorded substantial volatility.

- Notwithstanding the challenging market environment, ASB managed to record a gross income of RM9.59 billion*, as at 30 November 2016. The total income and bonus distribution of RM10.28 billion would benefit more than 9.0 million unit holders holding over 143 billion units of ASB. The income distribution rate represents a premium of 3.45 percentage points over the average 3-month KLIBOR of 3.3%, as well as 8.45 percentage points above stock market returns.

- Additionally, ASN, the first variable-price fund of ASNB, achieved a total income of RM82.7 million* as at 30 November 2016, enabling an income distribution of 5.00 sen a unit for the financial year ending 31 December 2016. The total distribution of RM92.86 million would benefit more than 1.2 million unit holders holding more than 1.85 billion units of ASN.

- Going forward, although PNB expects that 2017 will be another uncertain year, PNB sees sufficient grounds for cautious optimism and will continue to strive to sustain competitive returns for its unit holders.

*Unaudited as at 30 November 2016
term, consistent and competitive returns whilst ensuring the preservation of capital at a minimal level of risk tolerance.

The performance of ASB exceeded the performance of the Malaysian stock market, where the KLCI had recorded a negative total return of -1.7% (total shareholder return after taking into account dividend payments). This year marked the third year of consecutive stock market decline, where the KLCI index declined by 73 points from 1,692.5 points on 31 December 2015 to 1,619.1 points as of 30 November 2016. Overall market performance was affected by various factors including capital outflows into developed economies, low commodity prices, foreign exchange volatility and geopolitical developments.

Despite these challenges, ASB managed to achieve a gross income of RM9.59 billion*, as at 30 November 2016. Dividend income from investee companies contributed RM4.16 billion or 43.4%, while profit from the sale of shares contributed RM3.82 billion or 39.9% of the total gross income. The remaining RM1.60 billion or 16.7% were derived from investments in short term instruments and other income.

More than 9.0 million unit holders of ASB holding over 143 billion units will receive total income distribution of approximately RM9.78 billion and bonus distribution of RM500.40 million. This income and bonus distribution represents a premium of 3.45 percentage points over the average 3-month KLIBOR of 3.3% as well as 8.45 percentage points above stock market returns.

In addition, ASNB also declares an income distribution of 5.00 sen a unit for its first variable-price fund, Amanah Saham Nasional (ASN) for the same financial year ending 31 December 2016. The income distribution of RM92.86 million would benefit more than 1.2 million unit holders holding more than 1.85 billion units of ASN.

As of 30 November 2016, ASN recorded a total income of RM82.72 million*. Profit from the sale of shares contributed RM44.50 million or 53.8%, while dividend income from investee companies contributed RM30.56 million or 36.9% to the total gross income. The remaining RM7.66 million or 9.3% were derived from investments in short term instruments and other income.

The computation of the income distribution for ASB will be based on the average minimum monthly balance of 12 months of the financial year of the fund. Bonus distribution of ASB, which is paid by PNB, is based on the average minimum monthly balance for the last 10 years. The income distribution and bonus will be re-invested into additional units and automatically credited into the unit holders' accounts on 1 January 2017.

On the other hand, the computation of the income distribution for ASN is based on the units held as at 31 December 2016. The income distribution will be re-invested into additional units and automatically credited into the unit holders' accounts on 1 January 2017, based on the Net Asset Value per unit as at 31 December 2016.
All transactions for ASB and ASN at all ASNB branches and agents have been temporarily suspended from 22 December 2016 until 2 January 2017 to facilitate the computation of income distribution. Unit holders may update their passbook when transactions resume on 3 January 2017 at any ASNB branches or agents nationwide.

The Group Chairman of PNB, Tan Sri Abdul Wahid Omar said, “We are pleased that despite the challenging market environment as reflected by the past three consecutive years of negative KLCI returns, ASB still managed to deliver competitive and market-leading returns to its unit holders.”

“Going forward, although PNB expects that 2017 will be another uncertain year, PNB sees sufficient grounds for cautious optimism. With the implementation of its 6-year Strategic Plan, PNB will continue to strive to deliver sustainable and competitive returns for its unit holders,” he added.

*Note:
*Unaudited as at 30 November 2016*