



Permodalan Nasional Berhad

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**For Immediate Release
31 March 2015**

COMPETITIVE MAIDEN INCOME DISTRIBUTION FOR ASB 2 AT 7.75 SEN PER UNIT

7.50 sen per unit annual, 0.25 sen special income distribution

KUALA LUMPUR – Amanah Saham Nasional Berhad (ASNB), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Permodalan Nasional Berhad (PNB) today announced an income distribution of 7.75 sen per unit for its latest unit trust fund, the Amanah Saham Bumiputera 2 (ASB 2).

The income distribution comprised of 7.50 sen per unit of annual income distribution, and 0.25 sen per unit of special income distribution for the financial year end 31 March 2015.

This is the maiden income distribution for ASB 2 since it was launched in 2 April 2014, as a part of the nation's Bumiputera economic empowerment agenda. ASB 2 had received an encouraging response from the Bumiputera community, when 2.06 billion units were subscribed by some 103,546 unit holders. This achievement hails ASB 2 as the best performing newly launched unit trust fund in a one-year period subscription, compared to other fixed priced products previously launched by ASNB. It also reflects a growing awareness among the Bumiputera community about the importance of investing, despite trying economic environment and rising cost of living.

PNB Chairman, Tun Ahmad Sarji stated that the ASNB Board of Directors had agreed to allocate a payout worth RM92 million for the ASB 2 income distribution.

“It has been a rather tough first financial year for ASB 2, with uncertainties in the domestic share market, as well as challenging global economic climate,” he said in a press conference held today.

This is due to the sharp fall of global crude oil prices, depreciation of Ringgit against the US Dollar, political unrest in the Eastern Europe, as well as imbalances in the global economic growth, particularly in Asia and other developing countries.

He added that it is pertinent for the ASB 2 investment managers to balance out between the need to preserve the fund's capital, and to perform in generating a reasonable income distribution in accordance with the current economic and market environment.

Until 29 March 2015, ASB 2 recorded a gross income of RM130.6 million. From this amount, income from the sale of shares contributed RM86 million or 65.8%. Meanwhile, dividend income from investment in companies contributed RM30 million or 23%, whereas the remaining RM14.6 million or 11.2% derived from other income.

"Going forward, ASB 2 will continually strategise appropriately in facing continuously challenging economic environment as anticipated, among which by making prudent investment decisions as to achieve the objective of the fund," Tun Ahmad Sarji added.

The overall income distribution calculation of 7.75 sen per unit is based on the average minimum balance held throughout the financial year of ASB 2.

The income distribution rate of ASB 2 is reasonably competitive as compared to other similar investment instruments, as well as taking into account the current investment environment.

Transactions for ASB 2 had been suspended from 22 March 2015, until today 31 March 2015, at the ASNB Head Office, its branches and agents nationwide for income calculation purposes. ASB 2 transactions will resume as usual beginning tomorrow, 1 April 2015.

ASB 2 is a 'Mixed Asset Income Fund' which was launched on 2 April 2014, with the objective to generate a consistent, long term returns, as well as ensuring the capital preservation of unit holders through investments in mixed asset portfolios.

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