

HIGHEST PAYOUT SINCE 1981

PNB TO PAY RM15B IN DIVIDENDS

Income distribution of 6 sen per unit is announced for ASB2; 5.5 sen for ASM

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PERMODALAN Nasional Bhd (PNB) distributed its highest ever dividend payout since its establishment in 1981 after posting improved overall performance despite the challenging global landscape last year.

PNB's total consolidated net income remained firm at RM17 billion in the year ended Dec 31, 2018.

The group distributed a total of

RM15 billion in dividends for 2018, PNB chairman Tan Sri Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz said at a briefing on its financial performance here yesterday.

The group's asset under management (AUM) grew 6.9 per cent to RM298.5 billion during the year, mainly driven by a 7.9 per cent increase in units in circulation.

PNB announced an income distribution of six sen per unit for Amanah Saham Bumiputera 2 (ASB2) and 5.50 sen per unit for Amanah Saham Malaysia (ASM).

It also announced an income



PNB chairman Tan Sri Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz and PNB president and chief executive officer Datuk Abdul Rahman Ahmad announcing the dividend payout in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC BY SYARAFIQ ABD SAMAD

distribution of 4.10 sen for ASN Equity 3 (formerly known as ASG-Kesihatan), 4.20 sen for ASN Imbang 2 (formerly known as ASG-Pendidikan) and five sen for ASN Sara 1 (formerly known as ASG-Persaraan).

PNB's total income distribution for the five funds was RM236.1 million for last year, benefiting more than 220,100 account holders.

"The challenging economic environment in 2018 with moderating growth and uncertain fi-

nancial markets in both the global and domestic economic and financial environment has affected the performance of Malaysia's corporations including PNB," Zeti said.

"Undeniably, the economic environment is expected to remain uncertain in 2019.

"While PNB will remain focused on creating value for unit holders, investor also need to understand the risks in the financial market place."

Zeti said PNB would roll out

new digital offerings for unit holders along with continuous financial literacy to simplify investment decisions for them.

There will be a temporary suspension of transactions for ASB2, ASM, ASN Equity 3, ASN Imbang 2 and ASN Sara 1 at all branches from March 26 to 31 to facilitate the computation of income distribution for the financial year ending March 31, 2019.

The income distribution will be credited into unit holders' account on April 1.

'PNB to invest in advanced, emerging markets'

KUALA LUMPUR: Permodalan Nasional Bhd (PNB) will begin investing in the equity markets of several advanced and emerging markets within three years as part of its portfolio rebalancing exercise.

PNB president and chief executive officer Datuk Abdul Rahman Ahmad said it had identified six global funds managers that could be enlisted in the endeavour.

"Unfortunately, I can't reveal the names of these firms now but what I can say is that actual equity investment takes up to three years and though we can finalise everything this year, it won't be until the next three years that we can take up equity allocation," he said here yesterday.

"We would like to make the most prudent investment with the best returns for our stake-

holders and because of this, we have to take a number of things into account. Yes, it does take time but we want to be as careful as possible," he said.

The three-year deadline will coincide with the end of PNB STRIVE-15 Strategic Plan 2017-2022.

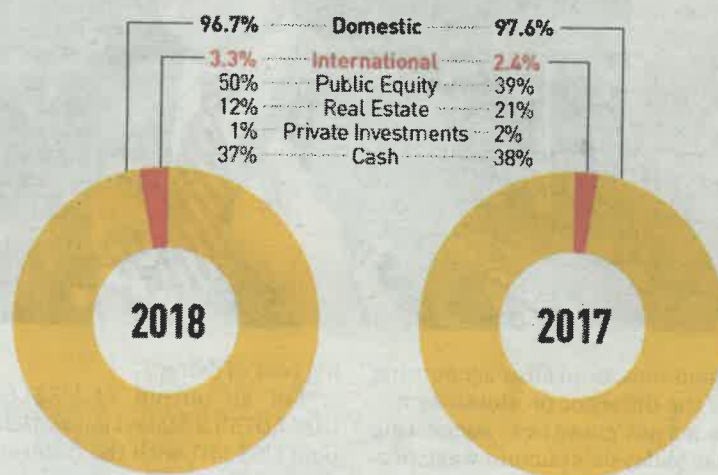
The blueprint comprises three pillars, namely enhancing sustainable returns, effective investment management and driving operational excellence.

Chairman Tan Sri Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz said the markets that PNB was looking at included the United States, United Kingdom, Japan, France and Germany. The emerging economies will mainly be from both Asia and Europe.

Zeti said the timing to enter these markets was crucial.

"Yes, we are interested to enter these markets. However, we do still need to build up our expertise in a gradual manner."

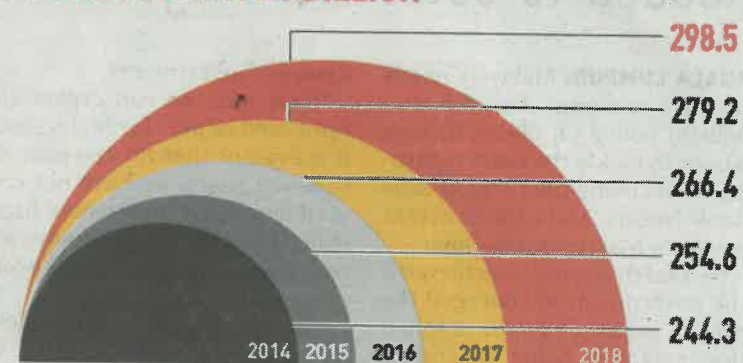
INTERNATIONAL DIVERSIFICATION IS GATHERING PACE, WITH GLOBAL ASSETS NOW REPRESENTING 3.3% OF THE PORTFOLIO



Note: Based on book value as at 31 December

INFOGRAPHIC NST

PNB'S ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT GREW BY 6.9% Y-O-Y IN 2018 TO REACH RM298.5 BILLION



INFOGRAPHIC NST

PNB is also looking at other type of instruments and market segments.

"Our strategy going forward is to diversify our portfolio both within the domestic and international markets. We have been blessed to have one of the strongest bond markets in Asia in terms of structure and maturity.

"Right now we have five or six per cent in the domestic bond market but we are looking at diversification into different segments such real estate investment trust (REIT). However, these proposals must first be approved by PNB's investment committee," she said.

On whether PNB had been approached to be a major investor in the government's proposed airport REIT, Rahman said: "We have not been approached to invest in it and we also have not been updated about it."

Zeti said the group's portfolio diversification was ongoing with cash position reduced to 17.4 per cent by redeploying it to fixed income.

"We are progressing well in our cash reduction as cash does not give us the returns that we want, while our international diversification is gathering pace with global assets now representing 3.3 per cent of the portfolio."