

# PNB's fund size grows to RM279b

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Permodalan Nasional Bhd's (PNB) fund size under management has ballooned to RM279 billion, 40 years after its establishment, making it the country's biggest fund manager.

In a statement issued in conjunction with PNB's 40th anniversary, group chairman Tan Sri Abdul Omar Wahid said that 98% of PNB's funds are invested locally to create business and economic opportunities for Malaysians. This includes providing equal opportunities to bumiputera professionals in the corporate sector.

"It is heartening to note that 70% of the fund is invested in the stock mar-

ket/public equity. Our investments in Bursa Malaysia are worth RM200 billion, which makes up more than 10% of Bursa Malaysia's total market capitalisation," said Wahid.

PNB's major investments include 10 strategic companies, namely Malayan Banking Bhd (Maybank), Sime Darby Plantation Bhd, Sime Darby Bhd, Sime Darby Property Bhd, S P Setia Bhd, UMW Holdings Bhd, UMW Oil & Gas Corp Bhd, Chemical Company of Malaysia Bhd, CCM Duopharma Bhd and MNRB Holdings Bhd.

PNB also has stakes in more than 40 core companies such as Telekom

Malaysia Bhd, Axiata Group Bhd, MMC Corp Bhd, Tenaga Nasional Bhd and BIMB Holdings. PNB owns more than 10% equity stake or investment worth more than RM1 billion in these companies, according to the statement.

In November 2016, PNB announced a strategic plan for 2017-2022, called STRIVE-15, with a vision for it to become a distinct world-class investment house.

"The PNB workforce has worked tirelessly to implement all 15 strategic initiatives under the three pillars to enhance sustainable returns, effective investment management and drive

operational excellence," said Wahid.

"It has progressed smoothly and has generated much success including the increase in income which enabled PNB to distribute dividend and bonus of 7.25 sen, including a special bonus of one sen for the first 10,000 units to Amanah Saham Bumiputera (ASB) unit holders in conjunction with our 40th anniversary," he added.

The dividend and bonus distribution for ASB as well as other Amanah Saham Nasional Bhd unit trusts amounted to a payout of RM14.4 billion for 2017 and more than RM172 billion in total dividends paid to unit holders since PNB was established.