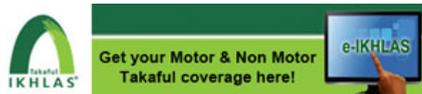


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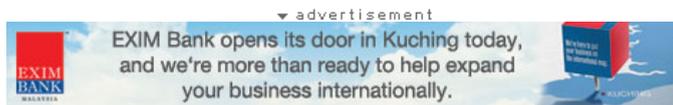
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Ekuinas Aims To Accelerate Investment To RM600-RM650 Million Annually

KUALA LUMPUR, April 28 (Bernama) -- Ekuiti Nasional Bhd (Ekuinas), a government-linked private equity firm, targets to accelerate its investment rate to around RM600 million to RM650 million annually.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Datuk Seri Abdul Wahid Omar, when announcing Ekuinas' 2013 results on Monday, said the firm undertook nine direct and outsourced investments with committed capital totalling RM246.8 million in its fourth year of operation since 2009.

"These included three direct and outsourced investments with a total committed capital of RM121.1 million, comprising follow-on investments in Integrated Food Group to expand Burger King Malaysia and in ILMU Education Group for the acquisition of APIIT Lanka Pvt Ltd, a tertiary college in Sri Lanka.

"It also included investment in PrimaBaguz Sdn Bhd, which signalled Ekuinas' maiden entry into the food manufacturing sector," Abdul Wahid told a press conference here.

He said Ekuinas' Outsourced Programme also expanded significantly with six new investments amounting to RM210.3 million, undertaken by external private equity firms under this programme, out of which Ekuinas' committed capital contribution was RM125.7 million.

He said this brought the total committed investments undertaken by Ekuinas since its inception to 24, amounting to some RM1.8 billion.

Abdul Wahid added that Ekuinas, which promotes equitable and sustainable Bumiputera economic participation via the creation of Malaysia's next-generation of leading companies, would execute the listing of its portfolio company, Icon Offshore Bhd, on Bursa Malaysia by the end of June this year.

Icon Offshore is currently the largest pure-play offshore support vessel company in Malaysia.

Meanwhile, Ekuinas achieved a strong performance for its 2013 financial year, with its Direct (Tranche 1) Fund delivering strong performance recording a gross portfolio return of RM655.9 million.

This translates to a gross annualised internal rate of return (IRR) of 25.5 per cent and net annualised IRR of 20.4 per cent, exceeding the long-term minimum annualised return target of 12 per cent and aspirational target of 20 per cent.

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