

Reaping a bountiful harvest

Scheme's investors stand to benefit from good returns

INVESTORS of Golden Agro Growers Scheme by Golden Agro Plantation (Mukah) Berhad (GAP) are guaranteed to receive 7% returns during the planting phase and they will also share 100% of the audited net profits after 2017.

GAP general manager Moo Kim Seng said unlike an investment in the public shares of an oil palm plantation company where investors get dividends based on corporate profits, investing in a growers scheme will yield a return based directly on 100% of the audited net profits of the plantation itself.

"Dividends paid by plantation companies listed on Bursa Malaysia are determined by their boards of directors. They may retain profits for future expenditures and share prices may fluctuate according to market sentiments.

"With our growers' scheme, you will earn full returns from a plantation just like a plantation owner and the value of your capital appreciates when the plantation

matures," he said.

Moo added that as of April 2014, 3,099ha have been cleared and 1,475ha have been planted. GAP expects to complete planting by mid-2015.

"After the planting phase is over, investors will get a share of all the annual audited net profits of the plantation for 15 years."

He said the quantum of the shared profits will depend on Crude Palm Oil prices, and based on current prices, investors can expect between 5% and 15% annual returns on their investments.

He also said that when the plantation reaches 20 years old, it will be sold and the investors will receive a share of the capital appre-



Cashing in on crops: GAP plantation manager Garin Bangit showing lush growth of a young oil palm tree.

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ciation of the land.

"Thus, investors get a guaranteed return for five years that is well above fixed deposit rates. Then they enjoy a share of 100% of the audited net profits over the next 15 years. They also get a share in any capital appreciation after 20 years.

"We have already started transferring oil palm trees from the nursery to the plantation grounds since 2012 and these will bear fruit in 30 months," Moo added.

GAP runs a 5,096ha plantation in Mukah, Sarawak. It is divided

into 29,240 quarter-acre plots and investors can purchase plots for RM8,000 each. An additional 12,532 plots or 30% of the total plantation land is retained by GAP.

The corporation will introduce its growers scheme at booth G11 in G Hotel during the Star Property Fair 2014 from July 24 to 27.

The Star Property Fair, now in its 12th edition, is the premier property showcase in the northern region. It will be held at Gurney Plaza and the adjoining G Hotel from July 24 to 27, from 10am to 10pm daily.

The event partner is Zeon Properties Sdn Bhd.

Exhibitors will showcase various local and foreign properties. There will also be talks and forums by specialists in their respective fields.

Admission is free. Visitors stand a chance to win iPad Minis, Samsung tablets, mountain bikes and gift vouchers daily, by taking part in the Dip & Win Property Fair contest, sponsored by Ivory Properties Group Bhd.

For details, call Eric Voon (04-6473388 ext 3021).



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Worried over itching problem

RESIDENTS staying in the vicinity of Traffic Garden in Bodhi Avenue, Penang, are living in fear over a flea outbreak.

Its residents association chairman Ong Lin Teong said more than 100 complaints were made by residents and visitors to the park about them being bitten by fleas.

"People here have been complaining of itchiness and red patches all over their bodies.

"You will only realise you've been bitten when you see small red patches or red dots on your skin," he told reporters at a press conference in front of the Traffic Garden recreational park recently.

Ong added that the vectors might have started spreading from a puppy's carcass found near the park last month.

Tanjong MP Ng Wei Aik, who was also present, said preventive measures had been taken by the Penang Municipal Council and the state Health Department, adding that fogging activities had been carried out in the area a few days ago.

He advised residents and the public not to conduct any recreational activities at the park for the time being.

A senior citizen who declined to be named, said several people who practised Tai Chi at the recreational park were bitten by cat fleas and some had since stopped visiting the park.

There is also a notice hung at the recreational park's entrance that daily Tai Chi classes have been temporarily stopped until July 13.



A fruitful gathering

(From second left) Tanjong MCA division secretary Datuk Lim Gim Soon, Penang MCA advisor Datuk Dr Loh Hock Hun and Tanjong MCA Youth division chief Lim Swee Bok together with the division's members enjoying themselves with local fruits during a get-together at the Penang MCA headquarters in Jalan Pahang, George Town. — Photo by ZAINUDIN AHAD