

BNM's international reserves at RM399.7b

by NG MIN SHEN

BANK Negara Malaysia's (BNM) international reserves stood at RM399.7 billion or approximately US\$96.4 billion as at Dec 15, 2016, compared to RM399.64 billion as at Nov 30 this year.

"The reserves position is sufficient to finance 8.3 months of retained imports and is 1.2 times the short-term external debt," the central bank said yesterday.

The short-term external debt includes short-term offshore

borrowing, non-resident holdings of short-term ringgit debt securities, non-resident deposits with the banking system and other short-term debts.

The central bank's international reserves were composed mainly of foreign currency reserves at US\$89 billion, International Monetary Fund reserves at US\$800 million, special drawing rights (SDRs) at US\$1.1 billion, gold at US\$1.6 billion and other reserve assets at US\$3.9 billion.

Its assets included gold and foreign-exchange and other

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reserves, including SDRs, amounting to RM399.68 billion, Malaysian government papers at RM3.695 billion, deposits with financial institutions at RM2.5 billion, loans and advances at RM7.74 billion, land and buildings at RM2.11 billion and other assets at RM8.485 billion.

Under capital and liabilities, the central bank's paid-up capital stood at RM100 million; reserves at RM125.15 billion, currency in circulation at RM94.77 billion, deposits by financial institutions at

RM170.13 billion, deposits by the federal government at RM4.96 billion, deposits by others at RM644.125 billion, BNM papers at RM8.59 billion, allocation of SDRs at RM7.76 billion and other liabilities at RM12.11 billion.

The reserves remain at their lowest level since mid-March, after falling by nearly US\$2 billion in the last two weeks of November. The reserves had stood at US\$96.4 billion as at Nov 30, 2016, down from US\$98.3 billion as at Nov 15, 2016.



Pic by Muhd Amin Naharul

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